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THE EUROPEAN TIMES

FRIDAY AUGUST 7 1992

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OF
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TIMES
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45p

No 64,405

Atrocities uncovered as Bush sets up full links with Slovenia and Bosnia

Serbs are executing civilians in detention camps, UK confirms

By MICHAEL BINYON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN yesterday gave the first indication that the West has firm evidence of detention camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where civilians have been executed at random.

Last night President Bush announced the setting up of full diplomatic relations with Slovenia and the Muslim-led regime in Bosnia in what may be preparation for a vigorous response to atrocities in the former Yugoslavia.

Whitehall officials said that at least ten large camps have been set up in Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia. Six appeared to be detention centres where civilians, mostly women and children, were held after being forced out of their homes during "ethnic cleansing" operations. They were kept in the camps, mostly in eastern Bosnia, until they were forcibly put on trains to Croatia.

The four other camps, in northeast Bosnia, were identified as prisoner-of-war camps for Muslim men of fighting age. Many had not been involved in fighting, but were simply men who were capable of doing so. The International Committee of the Red Cross has visited one PoW camp at Manjaca, which is thought to contain between 3,000 and 5,000 prisoners.

The three other camps are at Puharska Bosanski Novi and Omarska. A British official in London said conditions at Manjaca were "inhumane"; people were dying

and random executions had taken place. Britain had, however, no evidence of systematic executions. "In that sense it is not quite a death camp," the official said.

Many of the camps are in old schools, warehouses and stadiums. None has been purpose-built. "They are not quite like Stalag-II," he said.

How Whitehall has obtained the evidence of the camps' existence has not been disclosed. However, the Americans are said to have exactly the same information — much of which could have been gathered by satellite observation.

Not all camps in the former Yugoslavia are controlled by Serbs. The Red Cross has visited nine since June, several run by Croats and Muslims. Although they described conditions as "not good", they said that they were definitely "not death camps".

Despite the claim by the Bosnian government that there are 105 Serb-run prison camps holding tens of thousands of people, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday refused to publish its information about the camps. A spokesman confirmed that UNHCR officials had met Red Cross delegates, EC monitors and UN peacekeepers about the alleged abuse of prisoners in Topusko, a Croatian town, on July 3.

According to an internal UN memorandum obtained by *The Times*, the UNHCR had reports of at least four "concentration camps" in Bosnia on July 2. They were listed as Kerser, a railway station in Prijedor, where 100-200 Muslims were believed to be held; Tropoja, also at a railway station in Prijedor, where women, children and old men were held; Omarska, in a purely Serbian village where Muslims were detained; and Manjaca, a "large camp" where Croat soldiers were also held.

The treatment of Muslims and other minorities in the camps is reportedly atrocious, with regular beatings, deprivation of food and water, poor shelter, etc," the memo said. The document, which had the signature obliterated to preserve the anonymity of the source, also disclosed that UN peacekeepers in Croatia watched Muslims being herded up at a football field in Bosanski Novi, just across the border in Bosnia.

The Serbs appear to be engaged in a determined process of forcefully disarming Muslims where they are clearly a small encircled minority, such as Bosanski Novi, or besieging their city totally, such as in Srebrenica," the document said. "Apparently the football field is the holding ground where Muslim groups are detained while their houses are being 'searched', the men isolated and transported to concentration camps," the document said.

The statement said the EC viewed with "deep concern" reports that a large number of Bosnian civilians were being detained in camps against their will, where they were subjected to ill-treatment by local Serb authorities. It called for the Red Cross to have immediate and unconditional access to all camps, prisons and detention centres to investigate allegations of ill-treatment.

The Community and its member states are appalled by the blatant disregard for humanitarian principles shown by some parties to the conflict," the statement said. "They have repeatedly made



Behind the wire: emaciated inmates of the camp in a disused mine at Omarska, Bosnia, are offered solace from a visiting television team

Prijedor is being 'cleansed' now. In the blazing sun, Muslim women and children queue in front of the town hall to sign their property over to the municipality in exchange for exit or rather expulsion permits. They are too frightened to talk.

Tim Judah reports from northern Bosnia on page 9



Marshall, an ITN reporter, described a camp she had visited in a disused mine at Omarska. She described shaven-headed emaciated prisoners, too terrified to talk, and interviewed former inmates who described prisoners being beaten to death.

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Briton escapes ban after Olympic drug test

FROM JOHN GOODBODY
IN BARCELONA

A BRITISH competitor at the Olympic Games has been found positive in a drugs test but Olympic officials, who interviewed the unnamed competitor, have decided to take no action because it was a minor infringement.

Dick Palmer and Caroline Searle, two officials of the British Olympic Association, attended a hearing of the medical commission of the International Olympic Committee. However, both declined to confirm the adverse finding of the commission and to identify the competitor.

There have been three positive drugs tests resulting in disqualification at these Games, the most recent being the American hammer thrower Judd Logan, who tested positive for clenbuterol. The medical commission

has also interviewed competitors who have inadvertently taken medicines containing substances that appear on the banned list.

At the 1988 Olympics, three British sportsmen were called before the medical commission and cleared of any suspicion. They were Linford Christie, the silver medal winner in the 100 metres in 1988, and champion here, who took some pseudoephedrine in a drink of ginseng tea, and two modern pentathletes, Richard Phelps and Dominic Mahony. These two had taken quantities of a banned substance, possibly in travel pills.

After the Ben Johnson scandal in Seoul, these Games have again been marked by a series of controversies. Apart from the three disqualifications, three other British competitors — Jason Livingston, in athletics, and the weightlifters Andrew Saxon and

Andrew Davies — were sent back from Barcelona because they had been tested positive in out-of-competition tests in the United Kingdom.

In addition, Katrin Krabbe, the world 100 metres and 200 metres champion and her German colleague Grit Breuer have been tested positive in Germany. The pair are not competing here because they said they suffered too much stress in clearing their names after some samples taken in South Africa in January. The urine of the two runners and their colleague, Silke Möller, proved to be from the same person, and manipulation was suggested. However, after an initial suspension, the trio were cleared by the International Amateur Athletic Federation on a technicality.

Krabbe has now admitted taking clenbuterol, known as "doper's delight" because it is both a stimulant and an anabolic agent. It is the same

drug which was found in the urine of the two British weightlifters and also in the specimen of Judd Logan, fourth in the hammer throw here. The American, winner of the pan-American title in 1987, was formally disqualified from the Games by the IOC yesterday.

On the track, Britain took another bronze medal when Kriss Akabusi, the European champion, set a UK record of 47.82 seconds in finishing third in the 400 metre hurdles. The race was won by Kevin Young of the United States in a world record of 46.78 seconds, despite the American knocking down the final hurdle. This erased the world mark of 47.02 seconds set by Ed Moses, twice Olympic champion.

Meaty endeavours, page 3
Simon Barnes, page 14
Olympic reports, pages 26-28

Barclays and BP reinforce economic gloom

By GEORGE SIVELL
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TWO of Britain's biggest companies, Barclays Bank and BP, delivered further blows to recovery hopes yesterday as they wrote off more than £2 billion of bad debts and restructuring.

Sir John Quinton, the Barclays chairman, said: "I expect we could be well into 1993 or even 1994 before there are genuine signs of a revival."

Barclays had stunned the City with an 86 per cent fall in half-year pre-tax profits from £378 million to just £51 million. The bank set aside £1.1 billion to cover bad debts from business and property failures as well as personal customers.

BP meanwhile cut its dividend for only the second time, after setting aside £1,016 million to finance 11,500 redundancies around the world. The company explained that its markets had suffered for longer than it had expected and it had been forced to speed up rationalisation plans.

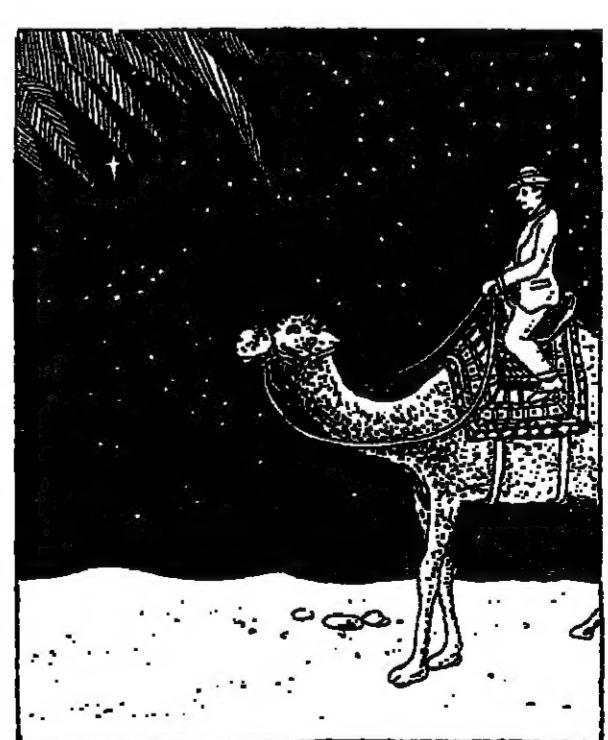
The halving of the quarterly dividend to 2.1p sent the group's shares below the £2 mark. Big investing institutions rely on dividends from companies such as BP for cash flow, and just after the BP announcement, the FT-SE 100 Index was showing a fall of more than 30 points, although it managed to recover, closing 15.2 points down at 2377.6.

Of BP's redundancies, 1,500 were declared in the South-East from the merger of BP Research and BP Engineering. The engineering site at Uxbridge, west London, will be closed and its workload transferred to Sunbury in Surrey. Staff were told yesterday in a letter saying that "the personal implications" would be known by October 2.

Stephen Dorrell, Treasury financial secretary, disputed Sir John's view of the economy and said there should be no panic because of short-term problems. "The important thing is to avoid the danger of taking ourselves into a sense of almost terminal gloom."

Anatole Kaletsky, page 10
BP loss, page 15
Moment of truth, page 19

Chapter Three
The BLAZER SALE...



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Murder hunt: police searching woodland in the Mendip hills, Somerset, where the remains of a young woman were found on Wednesday. Avon and Somerset

police, London detectives and a pathologist were working last night to establish whether the body could be that of Suzy Lamplugh, the London estate agent who vanished in July 1986 after going to view a house with a Mr Kipper (Stewart Tendler writes). The key may lie in dental records held by Scotland Yard.

Police in London said that the age of the body, thought to be at least seven years old, and details of clothing, suggested that it might not be Suzy Lamplugh. A spokesman for Avon and Somerset police said last night that they had found no evidence so far to connect the body with the Lamplugh enquiry.

Abbey imposes tight control on solicitors

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IN AN effort to halt widespread fraud, Abbey National is requiring all solicitors who handle mortgages to agree to stringent conditions that give the bank rights to go to solicitors' offices to inspect files and monitor their work. Solicitors will be required to check a borrower's identity. The conditions are being introduced in September and any solicitor or licensed conveyancer who does not agree

to them will be struck off Abbey National's panel.

The Halifax Building Society is considering imposing a levy or fee on solicitors on its panel as well as more rigorous standards and checks on lawyers who join or remain on it. This move coincides with Law Society moves to limit the amount of compensation paid to leading financial institutions in cases of default. The lenders deny that their

new controls are a tit-for-tat move.

Lenders are under increasing pressure to act to curb mortgage fraud. The extent of this fraud is behind the recent announcement that solicitor-partners must pay a £1,000 levy to top up the Law Society's compensation fund by £30 million.

Patrick Stevens, a solicitor in Wales, said he was outraged by the extent of the requirements. "This is very much the thin end of the wedge. The big lending institutions should not be allowed to use their economic muscle to make requirements which are unreasonable and grossly excessive," he said.

"One stipulation is that solicitors 'at all times observe and comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1984'. In other words, the society is insisting that we comply with the law, which is pretty insulting."

Clients, he added, would not be very happy at the prospect of the local building society manager "rifling through the files where he might see personal information not directly relevant to the mortgage transaction."

The result of the new conditions, he added, would be that solicitors would tend not to refer clients seeking a mortgage to the Abbey National.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 10

Letter, page 11

Lawyers jailed for mortgage fraud

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOUR solicitors were among 16 men jailed yesterday by Liverpool Crown Court for mortgage fraud in the latest successful investigation into a fraud that took millions from mortgage lenders in the boom years of the 1980s.

The men, who operated in the Greater Manchester area, will join a growing number caught in recent years by an increasing police effort. The Manchester group was responsible for a £1.8 million fraud on building societies and banks. Although the operation involved 90 properties and 128 applications, the scheme was relatively small. Officers from several forces and the Serious Fraud Office

are investigating more than 1,000 cases involving over £500 million.

One case, reported to be the largest yet, involved 200 to 300 properties including homes, public houses and commercial property in London. The loss, which involves a solicitor's firm, could be as high as £100 million.

Investigators believe the frauds began as property prices shot up in the past decade and lenders began a fierce competition for business. There were fewer checks because of the demand and the fraudsters moved in, often with the help of professionals such as lawyers, surveyors and accountants.

Letter, page 11

Hurd aims to trim EC laws

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday sought to win over critics of his stance on Europe by asking all government departments to search for superfluous EC laws that should be sent to the "knacker's yard".

He has written to cabinet colleagues asking them to draw a list by October of EC laws that interfere unnecessarily with British sovereignty. The result of the trawl will not be published initially, but discussed with the European Commission and other member countries to see whether the laws should be repealed.

British officials believe that the most likely candidates will be laws affecting animal welfare, food hygiene, the environment, workers' protection and the benefits system, because of Britain's different traditions and, in most cases, higher standards.

The target is understood to be headline-making EC directives governing the content of the British sausage or the labelling of cheese. However, Mr Hurd has made it clear that ministers must not list laws they merely dislike.

Procedures will also be introduced by the Commission next month to weed out proposals that interfere in the noks and crannies of national life.

With the prospect of a rough ride at the Tory conference in October, Mr Hurd yesterday made an unexpected attack on EC bureaucrats in a speech to the Banff and Buchan Conservative association, saying that excessive zeal by Brussels could do for Europe what the Spanish inquisition did for religion.

Praising the Maastricht treaty, he dubbed Eurosceptics "silly laggards".

Police planes join hunt for travellers

Farmers, police and landowners are using new methods to stop an illegal festival taking place. Louise Hidalgo reports

POLICE, farmers and landowners braced themselves yesterday as New Age travellers began to move towards Hampshire where the illegal Torpedo Town festival is expected to take place this weekend. Police aircraft have been flying across the county twice a day, roving patrols have been scouring minor roads ready to set up roadblocks and anti-vehicle ditches have been dug.

Farmers have received instructions from the National Farmers' Union on how to deal with travellers. Tips include spreading farmland with slurry, blocking gateways with manure, and never using firearms.

Chief Insp Peter Neyroud of Hampshire police, who is involved in co-ordinating the effort to stop the travellers, is determined the festival will not take place. "In the game of cat and mouse, I have every intention of playing cat," he said.

All police leave has been cancelled and roadblocks have been set up across a 25-mile area around Bramshott Common, near Liphook, and along the A3. Local landowners, which include the defence ministry, the National Trust

and many smallholders, have used logs, skips and tractors to block access to open land.

Every day police aircraft from Hampshire, East Sussex and Surrey have been surveying the region for signs of travellers amassing.

The defence ministry is helping to man the police operation and there is constant liaison with neighbouring forces.

Injunctions have been issued, and notices under the Public Order act served against people believed to be involved in organising the event. So far only a few convoys of buses and caravans have been spotted trundling through the Hampshire backroads towards Bramshott Common, which is owned by the defence ministry and is now protected around its 500 acres by an anti-vehicle ditch. All convoys have been turned back by police, as have the stragglers who arrived on foot.

Martin Bailey, who publishes a newsletter on free

festivals, confirmed yesterday that travellers were likely to seek to stage this year's event again at Bramshott Common. "If it is blocked off, they will probably try to find a new site," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three wounded in village gunfight

A policeman and a passerby were injured yesterday when a gunman taking part in a robbery ran through a village firing as he was chased by police. Shoppers in Brockham, near Dorking, Surrey, took cover behind cars and a telephone box as police marksmen returned fire. One man was caught in the crossfire and was hit in the ankle. A police officer was stabbed in the chest and the gunman was shot in his side.

No complaint has been made, but Surrey constabulary has voluntarily referred the incident to the Police Complaints Authority, which will examine how the incident was handled. It began when detectives, acting on a tip-off, lay in wait for a gang of armed robbers at the village sub-post office. The men, who had been followed from London by police, apparently opened fire when they were challenged.

The wounded, including the gunman, were taken to the Royal East Surrey Hospital at Redhill. Four men have been arrested in connection with the unsuccessful robbery — three in the village and the fourth after a ten-mile chase along the M25.

Kidnap case adjourned

A court yesterday further adjourned the case against Robert Black, 44, who is accused of kidnapping and murdering three young girls during the 1980s. Mr Black is next due to appear before Newcastle upon Tyne magistrates on November 6, when it is possible trial committal proceedings will take place. Mr Black, who is in custody, did not appear during the brief hearing but his solicitor accepted the move in a letter read out in court. Mr Black is accused of the kidnap and murder of Susan Maxwell in July and August 1982, the unlawful imprisonment and murder of Caroline Hogg in July 1983, the kidnap and murder of Sarah Harper in March and April 1986 and the kidnap of Terese Thornhill in April 1988.

Sadler's Wells saved

Sadler's Wells Theatre, due to close later this month with a deficit of £575,000, has been rescued by emergency grants of £280,000. The package, which guarantees the rest of the theatre's financial year, has been co-ordinated by the London Arts Board's chairman, Clive Priestley, and is made up of £100,000 from the board, £150,000 from the Arts Council and £15,000 each from the London Boroughs Grants Unit and Islington council. The rescue means that planned autumn performances by Glyndebourne Touring Opera, London Contemporary Dance, Phoenix Dance and London City Ballet will go ahead. Other companies whose bookings are now saved include St Petersburg Ballet Theatre and the Ballet Teatro Espanol, whose appearance is part of the European Arts Festival.

Jani Allan sells story

Jani Allan, who faces a £300,000 bill for legal costs after losing her libel action against Channel 4, has sold her story to a Sunday newspaper for an undisclosed sum, a spokesman for her solicitor, Peter Carter-Ruck, said yesterday. Miss Allan, who lives in a rented house at Hampton Court, Surrey, has won out-of-court libel settlements totalling about £40,000, from the London Evening Standard and Options magazine.

Priest jailed

A homosexual priest who molested a 12-year-old boy at a Roman Catholic boarding school was jailed for nine months yesterday. Father Michael Creagh, 56, former deputy house master at Douai Abbey School in Berkshire, pleaded guilty at Reading Crown Court to three counts of indecent assault over a nine-month period. Sentencing Creagh, Judge Stanley Spence told him: "You were a member of a religious community and in a position of trust — *in loco parentis* for that child. What is particularly reprehensible is that the child sought counselling when he came to you about signs of puberty. It was a double betrayal of trust." After the case detectives from Reading Family Protection Unit alleged that the school, run by Benedictine monks, had hindered the investigation.

Five share chess lead

Five players share the lead in the British Chess Championship in Plymouth with three and a half points after the fourth round yesterday. They are Julian Hodgson, Jonathan Mestel, Mark Hebden, Andrew Martin and Michael Basman. Hodgson, the reigning champion, from London, drew his game against Mestel, of Cambridge, the three-times former champion. Hodgson played a king's pawn opening but a premature advance of his king's side pawns left him in a poor position. However, at that point, Mestel played poorly, letting Hodgson exchange pieces into an end game in which a draw ensued. Players lower down the table took this opportunity to catch up with the leaders. Martin (Hounslow), beat Aly Mortazavi (London), and Hebden (Leicester) beat Philip Rossiter.

TV show 'insensitive'



That's Life, the consumer show presented by Esther Rantzen, left, has been criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Council for an "insensitive" item about blind people. The programme, highlighting the difficulty of reaching a phone box on a roundabout, showed a presenter in dark glasses and carrying a stick falling over a wall as he tried to reach the kiosk. The BBC said viewers knew that the humour was not aimed at the blind but apologised for any offence caused.

Death sentence appeal

Lawyers for Tony Teare, 22, a Manxman sentenced to be hanged for murder, have lodged an appeal against his sentence. An apprentice from Ramsey, he was found guilty last month of slitting a young woman's throat and leaving her to bleed to death. The Isle of Man is the last of the Crown dependencies where the death penalty is mandatory for murder, if the sentence is upheld by the appeal court. Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, will recommend the Queen to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. Toward, the Isle of Man's parliament, has sent the Home Office a draft bill to abolish the death penalty. The penalty for murder was abolished in Britain in 1965 and in Jersey and Guernsey in 1986. The last execution on the Isle of Man was in 1872.

Train couple fined

A couple who had intercourse in a packed train attracted the disapproval of their fellow passengers only when they lit up afterwards — in the no-smoking second-class carriage. John Henderson, 29, and Zoe D'Arcy, 19, worked at a Sainsbury warehouse in West Ealing, west London, and had been on a bank holiday works outing. Margaret Horseferry Road magistrates were told. Nazir Afzal, for the prosecution, said: "In due course they finished and lit up a cigarette each. It was only on their action in lighting up the cigarettes that the witnesses complained." Henderson, of Pimlico, southwest London, and D'Arcy, of Hanwell, northwest London, pleaded guilty to committing an indecent act on May 25. They also admitted smoking in a no-smoking carriage. They were each fined £50 and ordered to pay £25 costs.

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STOP PRESS FRANCE — WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Each week throughout the summer *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last-minute bargains available for travellers to France, the latest information on bookings, flights, traffic problems and holiday ideas

By LUCY ROCK

RECORD numbers of tourists visited France last year, making it the most popular holiday destination in the world, a position it seems likely to keep this year.

Last year France topped the international tourist league table with nearly 56 million visitors, against 36 million in 1986. The UK came seventh with 16.8 million, according to the World Tourism Organisation.

ROADS

In France key routes to resorts in the south, southeast, west coast and border crossings will be congested this weekend.

FLIGHTS

TAT European Airlines has limited space on all flights this weekend between Gatwick and Paris, but there is plenty of space on Gatwick-Lyon flights. Air France has limited availability on each

RAIL

Motorail has space on trains from Boulogne to Brive and Narbonne this weekend. There is also space on the Boulogne-Toulouse train on Saturday, Boulogne-Fréjus/St. Raphael on Sunday, and Boulogne-Avignon today and Sunday.

OFFERS

Airtours are offering self-drive camping holidays in France for £299 for seven days or £499 for 14 days. That covers up to six people sharing a tent and includes return Ramsgate-Dunkerque crossing.

RATES

The franc has strengthened against the pound over the past week. Travelers advise that exchange rates for the franc are between 10.03 and 10.06 when selling and 9.21 when buying.

Robin Young, the *Times* journalist and wine enthusiast, will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on her *Driverline* programme next Thursday, August 13, at 6.50pm on LBC *Newstalk*.

Passport to France, L&T section, page 4

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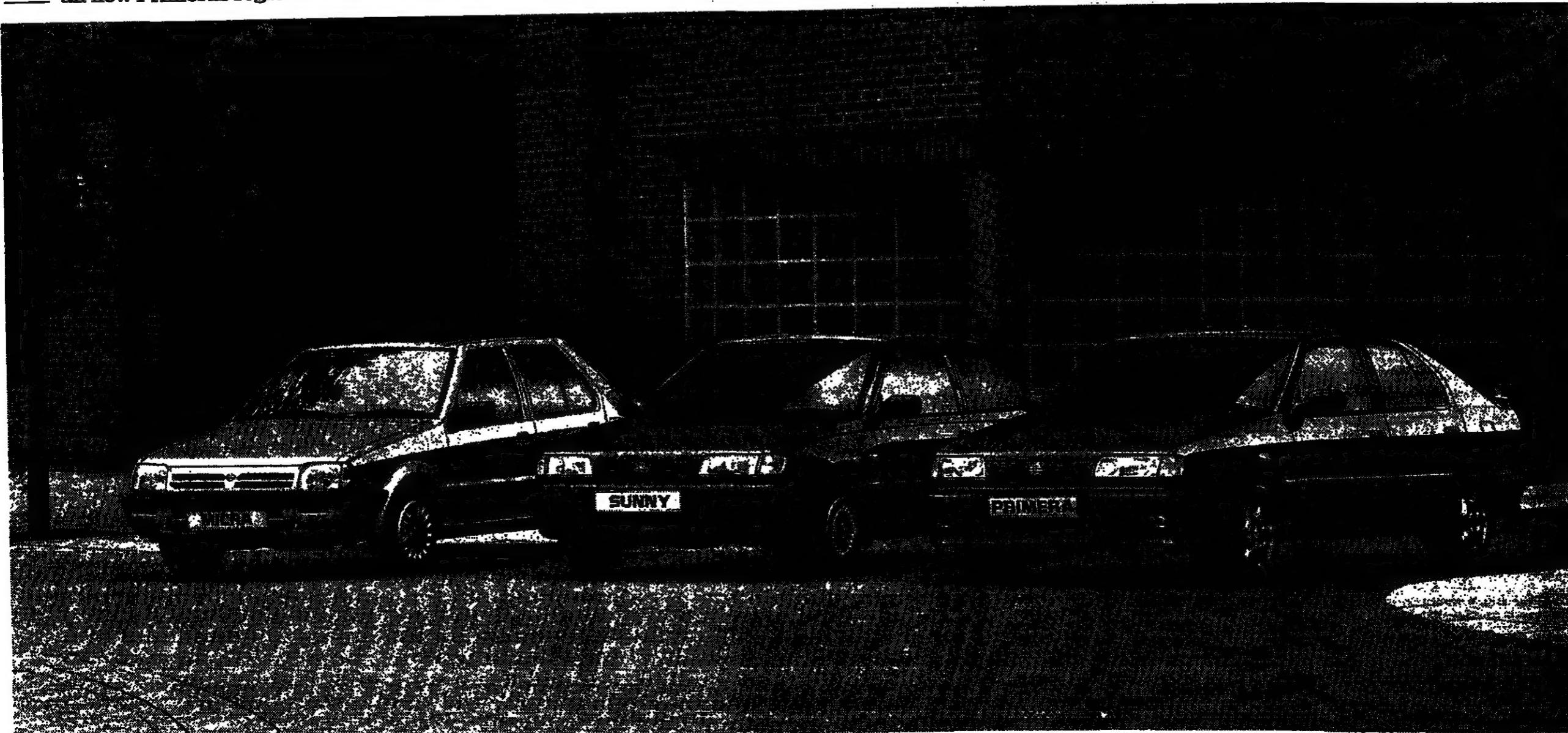
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Primera saloons and hatchbacks are available with a choice of 1.6 or 2.0 litre sixteen valve petrol engines and a 2.0 litre diesel. Prices range from £10,250 for the 1.6 L to £16,850 for the 2.0e GTi. An estate is also available. Every new Nissan comes with a 3 year/60,000 mile manufacturers warranty, 6 year anti-corrosion warranty and 12 months RAC Roadside Assistance - although with our quality and reliability record you're highly unlikely to ever use any of them. Alternative low-rate finance schemes are also on offer. For more information on these excellent cars, this outstanding offer and the generous part-exchange deals currently available between now and the end of August visit your Authorised Nissan Dealer. For the address call:

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Sacked NHS doctor 'had a reputation for being disruptive'

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE hospital consultant who claims that she was sacked for speaking up about nursing shortages had a reputation for being disruptive and malicious, a health service appeal court was told yesterday.

Dr Helen Zetland, made redundant from Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, near Birmingham, in February 1991, was accused of affecting the "good running of the hospital". She was said to be unpleasant and aggressive, and her behaviour "bordered on the unbalanced".

Colin Smith, regional medical manpower manager, compiled a report after investigating complaints about Dr Zetland in December 1990. He wrote: "It's clear from each of the persons I have

spoken to that her behaviour is seen as disruptive and malicious." He told the second day of the hearing, in the health department offices in south London: "That's how people I spoke to in the district perceived the situation. It's not intended to be an expression of my views."

The report was condemned on the first day of the hearing by John Hendy QC, acting for Dr Zetland. He called it a "document of extreme cynicism" that outlined four options for the removal of Dr Zetland. It recommended that she be suspended pending disciplinary action but did not mention redundancy.

Mr Hendy claimed that the real motive for the report and for his client's dismissal was

that she had spoken up about shortages of nursing staff.

Dawn Price, chairman of Bromsgrove and Redditch district health authority, said that Dr Zetland was upsetting staff by drawing attention to the alleged shortages. "I was concerned to hear that nurses were feeling threatened. They felt that they were being spied upon," Mrs Price said. "We had a situation in which the good running of the hospital was being threatened." She said that she had asked for disciplinary action to be taken against Dr Zetland.

Edward Bailey, counsel for the West Midlands health authority, claimed that Dr Zetland had been willing to be made redundant if she was given a substantial payoff. "It is quite plain, had the money been paid, we would not be here today," he said.

The committee hearing the case, chaired by Dr Michael Abrams, the deputy chief medical officer, will assess the evidence and advise the health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, on further action.

Mr Hendy has asked that the committee's conclusions and Mrs Bottomley's decision be made public.

Leading article, page 11

Nurses afraid to blow the whistle

The prospect of Virginia Bottomley's "gagger's charter" has done little to reassure hospital staff, Alison Roberts reports

IT IS becoming harder for staff to blow the whistle on bad practice or management in hospitals, despite the emphasis on quality in the new free-market health service, according to nurses' representatives. Health secretary Virginia Bottomley's "gagger's charter", to be implemented by the end of the year, has done little to reassure staff about the job prospects of complainants, they say.

The UKCC, the nursing profession's body responsible for standards, recently issued a new code of professional conduct for its members. Nurses should "report to an appropriate person or authority any circumstances in which safe and appropriate care for patients and clients cannot be provided".

Reg Pyne, the UKCC's assistant registrar for standards and ethics, believes that nurses are more likely to complain to colleagues than take up matters with senior managers. This is partly because nurses fear being labelled a "troublemaker" and consequent harassment. Mr Pyne said that nurses still suffered from "distorted traditions". "Some think that good conduct is to be compliant and submissive."

The UKCC will publish a report this month in which quality assurance guidelines are set out for health authority purchasers of care and health providers. Mr Pyne said that these would make it

easier for staff to complain when standards were not being met. But he said the new-style NHS required constant supervision from nursing bodies.

Karen Jennings, professional officer for the union Cohes, said many nurses found that the formal complaints procedure began with the hospital line manager. "In a sense to complain directly to the line manager is to cook your own goose," she said.

Hospitals are very incestuous places and quality assurance guidelines do not take personal dynamics into account. We have had an instance where a nurse found that a doctor was upsetting patients and reported it. She received no support from her colleagues. was moved to another ward, and then left altogether; she is now unemployed. Many nurses are losing their jobs in this way."

The health department will shortly issue details of an administrative body to which the aggrieved nurse may have redress. It promises greater access to channels of complaint culminating in contact with Duncan Nichol, the chief executive of the NHS.

The Royal College of Nursing said that their whistleblowing service had attracted 150 cases within a year; after an initial deluge of letters when the service was first set up, numbers had reduced to a steady trickle which showed no signs of halting.

Spray may help quit smoking

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



MacGregor: aiming to increase competition

Motorway services go private

BY JOHN YOUNG

PROVISION of motorway service sites is to be handed to the private sector, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said yesterday.

Responsibility for identifying sites for service areas, acquiring the land and gaining planning consent will go to developers, who will have no power of compulsory purchase. The government intends to dispose of the 45 sites that it owns and now leases to operators.

Mr MacGregor said that the new system was designed to increase choice. The old regime did not always give people the facilities they wanted. Although there were plans in the pipeline, one could drive from Folkestone to Birmingham on the M20, M25 and M40 without encountering a service area.

Although the minimum distance between sites would be cut from 30 miles to 15, strict road safety controls would remain, and site owners would have to guarantee 24-hour access, fuel sales and lavatories.

A total of 227 smokers were given four weeks' group therapy to try to help them to give up. In addition, half were given nasal sprays containing nicotine, and the other half sprays containing placebo.

The sprays, which have yet to be licensed for use in Britain, relieved the craving for cigarettes and reduced weight gain in those who managed to give up.

□ Spinach and vitamin C tablets can help to prevent cataracts leading to blindness. American researchers have found (Jeremy Laurance writes). But those who eat carrots or take multivitamin tablets do not enjoy the same level of protection.

A study of 50,000 nurses aged over 45 has shown that those with the highest intakes of vitamin A, mainly found as carotene in fruit and green vegetables and converted into vitamin A in the liver, had a 30-40 per cent reduced risk of developing cataracts. Those who ate spinach five or more times a week halved their risk, according to the study published in *The British Medical Journal*.

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Health, L&T section, page 5



It's cool to be hot: Scott Groves, 16, of Ravenscourt Stage School, tucks into a school dinner in a new commercial designed to persuade pupils to leave their sandwiches at home. The caterers who now provide school dinners have devised a "rap" commercial to sell their meals (Joe Joseph writes). Parents will have to decide whether a com-

mercial that persuades their offspring to eat in the school canteen is an adequate trade-off for lyrics that might make English teachers shudder.

The 30-second commercial, called *School Dinners Are Cool Dinners*, will hit television screens for a fortnight before the start of next term. It begins:

When they're feeling kinda hungry.
And the lesson is complete,
Take a slice of advice.

School dinners can't be beat.

Rap music is the last resort of no-longer-young executives seeking to excite young passions. "Rap's the thing, kids relate to it," said Mike Jones, who organises

West Sussex's school caterers and helped to devise the campaign. The Scout movement also has succumbed to this faddishness. Perhaps scoumusters and caterers are unaware that where rap music is popular, it is often because the lyrics urge listeners to redress social injustice, rather than to eat their vegetables.

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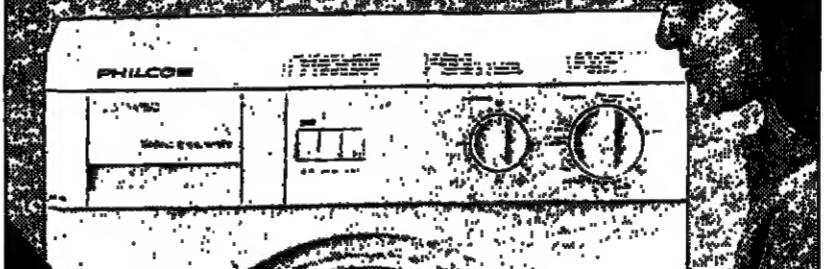
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• Extra large 8lb drying load
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Squatters put down roots in campaign to reclaim derelict flats

SIX months ago, Johanna Harrison was squatting illegally in an empty, rundown flat above Julian's delicatessen in Wimbledon, southwest London. She is now a legal tenant in the flat, which has been refurbished with government money, a beneficiary of one of the many schemes aimed at reclaiming some of the country's 80,000 empty flats above shops.

Her is a rare instance of one of Britain's 764,000 empty properties being used to alleviate homelessness. Although the Empty Homes Agency does not condone squatting, Bob Lawrence, an executive from the agency, said: "I find it very sensible that young people, especially vulnerable young people, can have the opportunity to be given keys rather than be forced into using a crowbar."

Miss Harrison, a 27-year-old writer, and about 20 other squatters, moved into 12 flats above 11 shops at Wimbledon Broadway and Victoria Crescent in 1988, forcing their way through the skyights.

Some of the flats had been

The homeless find hope in the high street, Rachel Kelly writes in part two of her series on empty properties

empty for ten years and were dilapidated, with broken windows, leaking roofs, rotten floors, defunct plumbing and hazardous wiring.

The squatters lived in and improved the properties for two years, and then decided to form a housing co-operative association to a housing association to negotiate with the landlord, the insurance company Friends Provident, to legitimise the arrangement.

The squatters formed a housing co-operative called Skylight, and affiliated themselves to the South London Family Housing Association. Friends Provident agreed to let the flats on short-term lease to the housing association, which has handed the day-to-day management of the flats to Skylight. The association obtained a £102,000 Housing Association grant to carry out necessary repairs to the flats, and now Skylight

hopes to provide permanent housing for 50 young people.

"The use of empty residential accommodation, particularly over shops, can help to redress the acute shortage of housing," Miss Harrison said. "Skylight has been established to resolve these problems in the borough of Merton, and to encourage other private owners to enter similar agreements."

Miss Harrison and her fellow squatters were fortunate to be negotiating with Friends Provident, which proved enlightened. "Friends Provident were fantastic to agree to the scheme," Miss Harrison said. As young single people, the squatters would not have been seen as priority housing cases by councils or housing associations, but were suitable in this case because they did a lot of the work repairing the flats.

"This made the scheme very

cheap for Friends Provident, costing them only about £4,000 a flat," said Pam Treanor from the South London Family Housing Association. "Families couldn't have done it."

The environment department sees the case of the Wimbledon flats as an example of what can be done with existing resources. The government's own Flats over Shops scheme invites commercial property owners to look at residential letting as a profitable use of their resources. The government scheme would concentrate on families on housing waiting lists rather than squatters.

□ The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Spare Space initiative aims to reclaim the estimated 80,000 empty flats over shops. More than 80 per cent of the flats over shops in the country are owned by just 80 institutions, which have been cautious of subletting for fear of being unable to get rid of tenants.

Michael Newey, chairman of the Spare Space initiative and the institution's Junior organisation, which is behind



Making space: Skylight, left, and Alison Hayward

the scheme, said: "Before the 1988 Housing Act there were sensible financial reasons for institutions to be wary of allowing their tenants in the shops downsize to sublet the flat above. The danger was that a permanent tenant who could not be got rid of could have a devastating effect on the property's value."

The introduction of the assured shorthold tenancy, in 1988, allowed flats to be used without risk to the freeholder or long-term inconvenience to the retailer, Mr Newey said. This means a landlord can get rid of a tenant after six months, if need be.

The art is now to persuade usually cautious landlords that they risk nothing by letting out empty space above shops. Currently such properties would be let on leases which would forbid sleeping and cooking on the premises as well as subletting the upper storeys as a flat. Participating landlords will allow tenants to sublet the flats over their

shops to registered housing associations, thanks to a change in their lease.

"We need to encourage a fundamental shift in attitudes," said Alison Hayward, the first project officer appointed by the institution to liaise with landlords and new tenants.

Such schemes would also breathe life into moribund town centres that are blighted by the empty property above shops. "The environment would be safer and this would bring extra business to local traders," Mr Newey said. "The town centres would become living centres after 5.30."

The Spare Space team has already persuaded a number of property giants, including Norwich Union, Legal & General and Grand Metropolitan Estates to examine their property portfolios to find premises suitable for pilot schemes in high street premises to be available for use this autumn. The housing associations would carry out any necessary work and then grant assured shorthold tenancies either to people on their

own waiting lists or to local authority nominees.

Other projects are already underway. Grand Metropolitan Estates is working with Tower Hamlets council to help house the borough's homeless. The council has £109,300 of government money to reclaim 12 one- and two-bedroom flats above shops in Cambridge Heath Road, east London. The remaining £186,000 cost will be met by Grand Met, partly as a capital contribution and partly as deferred income from rent paid by residential tenants.

A second, cheaper, scheme is being considered in Torquay. The freehold of a shop with a three-bedroom maisonette above is owned by Imperial Investments, which has agreed that Spare Space can negotiate with its tenants, the Sean group, about letting the space above the shop. "It could cost less than £5,000 to bring the maisonette back into use, as it is in very good condition," Mr Newey said. The next step is to involve a housing association or local authority.

Children of mortgage defaulters have no right to be rehoused

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

HOMELESS children have no right to apply for council housing in their own right if their parents have been declared intentionally homeless.

Oldham council had said that if the children were to win, the floodgates would be opened and thousands of applications would be made by undeserving families, a result which would be "absurd and unreal".

Agreeing, Lords Justices Ralph Gibson and Nolan sitting with Mr Justice Scott upheld a decision by the High Court in April that children could only qualify for emergency housing in their own right if they were separated from their parents.

The court was told that Moses Bentum was the son of political refugees from Ghana who bought their own home at Thame, southeast London. The family got into financial trouble and was unable to keep up mortgage payments.

They had presented themselves as homeless to Bexley council in August 1990. In February last year their three other children and a grandchild arrived from Ghana and were included in the application for housing.

Last September the parents were declared intentionally homeless because the council found there had been "a deliberate omission" to keep up mortgage payments.

Graham Garlick's single-parent mother Sharon, 20, was declared intentionally homeless by Oldham council after she was evicted from a council flat in January last year because she had run up rent arrears of £150. The High Court had been told that she had spent her rent money buying drugs for her boy

friend and the family was living at temporary addresses.

Lord Justice Nolan said it might seem "very hard" that the disqualification of the parents should be visited on their children. But parents, rather than local councils, should bear responsibility for housing their children.

Mr Justice Scott said that a homeless person being housed by a council was, in law, entering into a contract to rent accommodation. There was no question of a four-year-old child being able to enter into such a contract.

Lord Justice Gibson said the argument that parents could use their children to get round housing laws was "repugnant to commonsense".

Although the appeals were dismissed the judges gave the two boys leave to take their cases to the House of Lords. Mark Hall, the Bentum family's solicitor, said: "We shall definitely go ahead with the appeal subject to us continuing to receive legal aid."

More homes for low-income families are being built in the countryside than in previous years, according to a report published today by the Rural Development Commission and Acra, a rural communities charity (Rachel Kelly writes).

Although the immediate picture is optimistic, in the longer term the potential supply of housing in the pipeline has increased only slightly and is unlikely to meet forecast needs, the report warns.

Lord Shurifworth, chairman of the commission, said: "Affordable housing must continue to be given a high priority if we do not want to see a population exchange with the less well-off in rural areas being forced to move away to the towns. The health and vitality of rural communities depends on a mix of people from all walks of life living and working in them."

The report, *Rural social housing supply and trends*, surveys 11 rural districts in England. It shows that there has been an increase of just under 5 per cent in eight districts and discloses that 67 per cent of the new homes will be for rent.

The report also shows that housing associations are now the major developer of affordable rural homes and that there has been a shift towards rented housing.

Nolan: parents must be responsible for children

encourage employees to go green, and switch to smaller cars. However, employees appear to be resisting the withdrawal of their most obvious perk. The findings coincide with the release of figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showing a renewed fall in car sales.

Showroom sales during July were 33,051, 8.45 per cent below the level of July 1991, the society said. The fall comes after three consecutive months of year-on-year sales increases, which had begun to raise hopes of a market recovery.

Until April, when the Chancellor halved the special car tax, trimming several hundred pounds from the price of a family saloon, car sales in Britain had been falling for 27 consecutive months.

A society spokesman cautioned



Early start: Rosie Barnes, the former Social Democrat MP, holding Jessica Ertel, born prematurely at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, west London, two weeks ago. Mrs Barnes takes up her new post as director of the charity Birthright next month.

Ashworth nurses given ultimatum

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FIRM action to end the regime of abuse at Ashworth high security psychiatric hospital on Merseyside was promised yesterday by the new manager, who said that staff who were not prepared to change their ways would be sacked.

The tough line taken by Peter Green, the new acting unit general manager, follows a report by a government-appointed committee of enquiry, which revealed inhuman and degrading treatment of patients over many years.

Mr Green, who replaces Brian Johnson, who has been moved to other duties, said: "The time is here when they have to decide whether or not they are nurses. Once they

have made that choice, and realise that they are nurses first, they will have a future at Ashworth."

He said that staff were working their way through the report and their reaction had been "stunned silence". Seven nursing staff named in the report have been suspended and charged with gross misconduct on the grounds of negligence. Three have also been charged with assault.

The Prison Officers' Association, which represents most nursing staff at the hospital, has called an overtime ban in protest at the earlier dismissal of two staff for taunting patients with a severed pig's head.

Charles Kaye, chief executive of the Special Hospitals

Service Authority, said: "We must support education and counselling for the staff, and if we can't change their attitudes then they will go. The Prison Officers' Association has got to adjust itself because it doesn't realise that it is now dealing with a health authority that is thinking in terms of care in hospitals."

He said he would judge the POA by the way it behaved over the next six months. "If they follow industrial action which cuts patients off from essential services then they should be condemned for refusing to learn," he said.

Mr Green, former director of rehabilitation at Ashworth, said: "We have taken the first few steps on a thousand-mile journey."

National Audit Office: *privatization of police posts in the Royal Ulster Constabulary* (Stationery Office, £5.35).

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Charles Kay

South African constitutional talks expected to resume after week of action

ANC will claim strike forced concessions

WHEN Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, and his communist and trade union partners in the tripartite alliance sit down tomorrow to analyse the results of the week of mass action they will no doubt allow themselves some satisfaction.

As the March 17 referendum among the white community showed that President de Klerk had their overwhelming support, so this week has shown that Mr Mandela has the support of blacks. While it is true that the success of a general strike can be ensured by intimidation and those wanting to work can be kept at home by the absence of transport, it is more difficult to intimidate people into turning out for mass marches.

The vast numbers who poured into city centres on Wednesday were testimony to the strength of feeling, as well as to the organising ability of the ANC cadres who transported thousands of protesters from rural and small urban districts into the big towns. Estimates varied between 200,000 and 400,000.

There were two other impressive things about the mass mobilisation. First that the crowds were well-disciplined by marshals. There were few incidents of violence, or destruction. True, in Pietermaritzburg four cars had their

Pretoria believes the ANC action has not affected its strategy. Michael Hamlyn writes

question might be: what difference will it make? Despite the brave words of some leaders the government was not going to fall. "If mass action was going to bring down the government it would have been used a long time ago," said Professor Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, academic and politician.

But as *Business Day* pointed out the country has suffered, not only from the deaths caused, and the hundreds of millions of rands of lost production. "The costs include all the 'might have been' investment projects, local and foreign, that will be scrapped or at best delayed until those investors can be assured that the future South Africa will not simply lurch from one crisis to the next."

The government has always said it was ready for talks. Mr de Klerk said it at the moment the ANC called them off after the deaths in Boipatong. He reiterated it this week after Mr Mandela stood outside his office in Pretoria and shouted at him from the terraces below the Union buildings.

The cabinet went into rural retreat last week for a *bosberaad*, a bush council, and drew up a formula to put to the ANC when it judges the moment right.

According to yesterday's *Sowetan*, the newspaper most read by blacks, the govern-



Stop sign: a Pretoria policeman halting marchers outside government buildings

ment is prepared to abandon a key element of its negotiation package, that the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) should draft an interim constitution which would act as the basis for the final one. Ismail Lagardien, the *Sowetan*'s political editor, said: "It is envisaged that the present constitution could be amended to prepare the country for elections to a constituent assembly as the next stage for the country's transition." *Southern Africa Report*, a weekly newsletter edited by Raymond Louw has a similar impression: "A November

election for a single house constituent assembly where the government would have no veto powers but would demand a 70 per cent majority vote on contentious issues are among the latest 'flexible' proposals to emerge from the cabinet following its secret two-day *bosberaad*."

If this is proposed then the government will have gone a long way to answering the ANC's constitutional demands as well, and negotiations could begin again soon. The only question to be settled then is did the government make the concessions because

it was driven by the black mass mobilisation? Or would it have made them long ago if the Codesa process had been allowed to continue? Tomorrow's meeting of the ANC and its allies will claim the former. Government proponents will insist on the latter.

• Choristers shot: Two young choristers were killed and 12 others wounded by five gunmen in the Johannesburg township of Alexandra. The singers were getting out of a bus to attend a night vigil for a teenager, who had died of natural causes, when they were gunned down.

President Yeltsin has given Ukraine the luxury Crimea villa where the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was held during last year's failed coup, saying that it was useless and expensive to run. The Ukrainian parliamentary deputy chairman, Vasil Durdinet, said he was told by Mr Yeltsin: "Do what you like with it. The villa is no good for meetings, no good for receptions and expensive to maintain." Mr Gorbachev, his wife Raisa, and other members of his family, were held for three days at the whitewashed villa, built especially for them, after a hardline "emergency committee" cut communications on August 18.

Gareth Evans, Australia's foreign minister, was forced to abandon plans to speak at Melbourne University when police hustled him to his car to escape demonstrators protesting over possible fee increases.

President Ramos of the Philippines has set aside a "People's Day" at the presidential palace on August 29 to listen personally to Filipinos who want to discuss their complaints.

Romania's former King Michael said in Paris that he would not run for president next month, but wanted to rule as a monarch. He said he

Bevan Meninga, 30, the younger brother of Australian rugby league captain Mal Meninga, has been jailed for life in Brisbane for what a judge described as the "horrible killing" of a woman, aged 19, with a branch three weeks after he was paroled for crimes that included attacking a woman.

The Bulgarian prime minister, Filip Dimitrov, flies to Spain today for a four-day visit during which he intends to meet Bulgaria's exiled King Simeon.

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Armed Somali youngsters cheer arrival of relief team



Kouchner: challenges European ministers

TWENTY-FOUR United Nations experts flew to Mogadishu yesterday in preparation for a relief operation to save more than 1.5 million people from starvation and to plan a military operation to restore order in Somalia, which has collapsed into anarchy.

They arrived to the cheers of crowds of teenagers carrying guns and drove immediately to meetings with the local warlords.

The team, led by Peter Hansen, a Dane, includes representatives from the Organisation of African Unity and relief agencies. It will have to come to grips with what Bernard Kouchner, the French health and humanitarian action minister, yesterday described as the worst human catastrophe since the Biafran civil war in Nigeria during the late 1960s.

Sam Kiley reports from Nairobi on the complexities confronting the latest United Nations efforts to bring peace and food supplies to Somalia

M Kouchner also challenged other European ministers responsible for humanitarian matters and said that he would be making a "personal appeal to European ministers to set up a lifeline for Somalia".

He said: "I shall be appealing to every mayor of every big town in France to send a shipment of food or medical supplies to Somalia. Something must be done, and done immediately."

Nearly a million Somalis have already flown, 350,000 to Kenya and 500,000 to Ethiopia. The UN High

Commissioner for Refugees estimates that between 1,200 starving Somalis arrive in Kenya every day. Relief agencies that have been in the country for at least six months, like the International Committee of the Red Cross, Save the Children, and the Los Angeles-based International Medical Corps, believe that the number who have died must be "into the hundreds of thousands".

UN officials said that the team would hold talks with the rival warlords to try to persuade them to accept the arrival of foreign troops to

protect relief convoys and aid workers. Since the worst of the fighting broke out last November two foreign relief workers and at least 40 Somalis have been killed.

Barre, who declared that Somalia would be a "scientific socialist" state, ruled through his family — all members of the Marehan sub-clan of the larger Darod group.

Somalia controls the Horn of Africa and therefore access to the Red Sea, so first the former Soviet Union and later the United States boosted Mr Siad Barre's regime with weapons.

The results can be seen now on the streets of Mogadishu where children with Soviet AK47 rifles only

slightly outnumber those with the American M16.

Three main groups united to drive Mr Siad Barre from power in August 1990. In the north the oldest rebel group, the Somal National Movement, led by Abdurrahman Ahmed Ali, is dominated by the Issak clan. In the south the Somali Patriotic Movement, under Omar Jesse and

Ogadeni Darod, and the Hawiye-dominated United Somali Congress led both by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid who attacked from Ethiopia, and Ali Mahdi Muhammad, who led an uprising inside Mogadishu.

Rebel forces swept through Somalia, quickly taking the north and forcing their way to the capital where Mr Siad Barre retreated to a bunker while promising multiparty elections within months. But Mr Ali Mahdi's group, dominated by his Abgal sub-clan, drove him out while General Aidid and his Habre Gedirs waited on the outskirts of town in late January 1991.

By February 6 Mr Ali Mahdi had established himself as an interim president promising a "broad-based government" while offering General Aidid the chair of the

Somali congress. The mutual fear of domination by another sub-group then gripped all the players, by then servants of their nominal supporters, who recognise no loyalty beyond their families and to whom concepts of democracy and consensus are alien. So by February 10, the patriotic movement and the Somali congress had clashed in Afgoi, 25 miles south of the capital, leaving at least 110 dead.

By November 17 the new civil war started in earnest, leaving 30,000 dead in three months and countless more cut off from the meagre food supplies. Worse, perhaps, came the collapse of the clan structure as elders failed to negotiate a ceasefire. Many have since been killed in random attacks. Now, with virtually no food in the country, only the armed may eat.

Jobless figures add to Republican woes

Bush's poll rating falls to record low

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT Bush has set a new record for the greatest sustained drop in the approval ratings of any American president since polling began and has now reached a level from which none of his predecessors has ever won re-election.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll yesterday gave Mr Bush an approval rating of just 33 per cent, down five points since last month. By dropping 57 points in 17 months since the Gulf war, Mr Bush has now broken Harry Truman's record fall of 55 points in 15 months just after the second world war.

A separate Gallup poll on Tuesday gave Mr Bush an even lower approval rating of 29 per cent. Only Truman in 1951, Richard Nixon in 1974 and Jimmy Carter in 1979 have recorded ratings below 30 per cent, and none recovered. Truman stood down. Mr Nixon resigned over Watergate, and Mr Carter was defeated by Ronald Reagan.

In another blow to the Republicans, figures were released yesterday showing the biggest weekly jump in a decade in unemployment benefit claims. The 1.7 per cent surge was partly caused by a General Motors' two-week lay-off, but it was nevertheless a further jolt to consumer confidence and undermined a new administration drive to



suggest the economy was not nearly as weak as portrayed. "We've had nothing but talk-down America stuff all day," Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, complained at a congressional hearing on Wednesday.

There seems no end to the bad news for Republicans. Earlier this week, Guy Vander Jagt, the Michigan congressman in charge of all this year's Republican congressional election campaigning, lost his own primary, a victim of what he called a "ferocious tide" of public anger against all incumbent politicians. The same day George Herbert Walker, the president's cousin, lost a Missouri House primary despite distancing himself from Mr Bush.

On the campaign trail, the president has begun to make a virtue of his own weakness, jokingly comparing himself to

Christopher Columbus. He told a New York audience: "Think about it. The guy was faced with questions at home about whether his global efforts were worth a darn. Some critics wanted to cut his voyage short. He even faced the threat of mutiny. And yet Columbus persevered and won. Not a bad analogy in my view." Earlier the comparison was with an American swimmer at the Olympics who had come from behind to win the gold, and before that with President Truman, who in 1947 snatched re-election when all seemed lost by running against a "do-nothing Congress".

Despite everything Mr Bush has for the first time shown an appetite for the campaign this week, confidently taking the battle to Bill Clinton and for the most part silencing those arch-conservatives who spent last weekend demanding he step down.

The emerging strategy is to frighten voters back into the fold by painting Mr Clinton as too risky a choice. Mr Bush has started talking about the need for the president to give a moral lead, thereby reminding voters of Mr Clinton's questionable past, portraying the Arkansas governor as too liberal on issues such as abortion, welfare and education, and suggesting he is too inexperienced in foreign policy to take control of the world's sole superpower. The world playing field had become so competitive it would be foolish "to trust the team to a rookie quarterback", said Mr Bush in Nevada.

Mr Clinton has made a point of replying instantly to each Bush charge, often seeking to turn it against him. He alluded, for example, to his selection of Dan Quayle as vice-president. Mr Bush used the word "trust" 29 times the other day. Mr Clinton said in Iowa: "The implication was, of course, that you couldn't trust the other fella. That's me. Before you get elected just let you make one decision. My decision was Al Gore. Do you think you can trust me?"

His comments were directed at the government's reform programme. In particular, Mr Bush has taken immediate steps to halt thousands of new settlement homes in the occupied territories and has promised to begin the transfer of authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to their 1.8 million Palestinian inhabitants within a year.

Those actions are expected to lead to a friendly and productive meeting when Mr Bush meets President Bush at his holiday home in Kennebunkport, Maine, on Monday. Mr Bush is likely finally to grant Israel its request for \$10 billion (£5.2 billion) in loan guarantees.

However, Mr Bush said that Israel could not be treated like the 51st state and that the right wing would acquire the strength to topple Mr Bush's government. Nevertheless, even traditional Likud supporters predicted it would be some time before the right wing could mount a serious challenge.

"Right now the right's case is useless," said Yossi Olmer, a senior Likud figure who headed the government press office during Yitzhak Shamir's government. "Rabin is still popular while Likud is in bad shape and needs a new leader. This rally was an opening shot, now we must wait for the real salvo."



Hiroshima remembers: an elderly woman praying in front of the monument to the atomic bomb victims of 47 years ago during an anniversary memorial service yesterday. Several hundred anti-nuclear protesters staged a "die-in" as 50,000 people took part in the Japanese city's annual rite of mourning. Takashi Hiraoka, the mayor, reading a peace declaration, recalled the

140,000 victims and urged that all weapons of mass destruction be eliminated. "The problem is limited not only to nuclear weapons as massive arsenals of biological, chemical and other weapons... have been built up over the years to cast a dark shadow over the future of mankind," he said. Bells tolled and 1,500 white doves were released. (Reuters)

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Ben Macintyre

Rampant sole-baring gives city plenty of kicks

The New York tycoon, Donald Trump, and his girlfriend, Marla Maples, have inadvertently brought light to a new urban trend after Ms Maples's publicist, Chuck Jones, was arrested for allegedly stealing at least 30 pairs of her shoes and hiding them in the air-conditioning ducts of his New York office. Some of the stolen shoes had apparently been altered to accommodate a much larger foot than that of Ms Maples.

Ms Maples, an actress who made her Broadway debut this week in *The Wild Rovers*, has a large collection of footwear, but in recent years she had noticed that many of her most prized shoes were disappearing. Mr Jones was allegedly fibbed stuffing high heels into a bag after Ms Maples installed a hidden video camera in her bedroom cupboard.

The incident might have been dismissed as just another publicity-seeking ruse by New York's most over-glamorised couple, were it not for the extreme embarrassment all round: neither Mr Trump nor Ms Maples

will talk about the shoe-stealing, and a red-faced Mr Jones, saying "you wouldn't understand", was led away by police.

But the response by New

Yorkers to the incident sug-

gests that many not only

understand, but share Mr

Jones's strange chirodopic

interests: a rash of what one

might call "Imeldaism" has

swung the city, and foot fetishists are tottering out of the closet in large numbers. One

New York club has started a "foot friends" bar night" on

Fridays and Saturdays for

people who enjoy "all kinds of

feet and foot-gear action to

meet in a friendly, supportive

and social gathering".

New York women, it has

emerged, have long suffered

the unwanted attentions of

foot enthusiasts. *The New*

York Observer reports that

for the past four years many

of the women whose engage-

ments are announced appear

in *The New York Times* have

subsequently been tele-

phoned by "the foot man",

who pretends to be an old

school friend but rapidly

brings the conversation

around to insteps, nail polish, arches and so on.

Mr Jones spent two nights

in jail before being released

on \$5,000 (£2,630) bail. He

has pleaded innocent, and his

trial is due to take place in

Nathaniel White, 32, from

upstate New York, said after

his arrest on Tuesday that he

had killed six women since

March 1991: "The first girl I

killed was from a *Robocop* movie," he said "I did exactly

what I saw in the movie." In

Robocop a policeman is

transformed into a robot, who

then patrols the city to pre-

vent acts of violence which

are shown in horrible detail.

The decision by Ice-T last

week announced that he was

pulling his song *Cop Killer*

from his album *Body Count*,

after executives at Time

Warner, whose subsidiary

released the album, had re-

ceived bomb threats. Police

and politicians had con-

demned the song which they

said blatantly encourages the

killing of policemen.

The decision did not come

at least at first shooting

incident was linked to the

song. One of four teenagers

arrested after police were

shot at in Las Vegas said he

wanted to kill a policeman

and repeatedly chanted

verses from Ice-T's song.

The decision by Ice-T and

Time Warner suggests that

this round in the war between

those who defend and those

who would limit artistic

freedom has been won by the

latter, but more such highly

lucrative and morally dubious

types of "art" are already in

the offing. "We've all been

put on notice by this," said a

spokesman for Time Warner last

week. "but it's not going to

stop us."

Following the enthusiastic

response to the Elvis

Presley postage stamp, there

Gender blenders

Nigel Hawkes on why there are only two sexes

Why are there only two sexes? Man and woman created them, declares the Book of Genesis, and that will be quite enough for some. But biologists prefer explanations that exclude a Creator, and for them this simple question has always been a bit of a puzzle. Imagine the fun that might be had if, instead of two sexes, there were five or six: the infinite variety of couplings, the delicious hierarchy of sexual categories, the kiss-and-tell stories in the Sunday papers. In a world of infinite variety, it seems hardly fair that we should be restricted in our choice of mates to the 50 per cent of the population that happens to be the opposite sex.

Digging through the scientific literature, Laurence Hurst of Oxford University has come across a slime mould that has 13 sexes. While nobody would volunteer to be a slime mould, a primitive species without a rich inner life, it is striking that it should enjoy such sexual abundance, and it threatened to throw Dr Hurst's theories into disarray. For he it is who has provided an answer to the question I posed. Dr Hurst and his collaborator in the venture, Dr William Hamilton, belong to the Oxford school of evolutionary biologists who see nature as a war between competing genes.

According to their theory, which has been published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, the two-sex rule is a way of managing the conflict between parental genes that would otherwise break out. They do not ask why sex should exist at all, since that was answered long ago. The function of sex, biologically speaking, is to provide a source of variation that enables a species to remain adaptable. By mixing and matching genes from their parents, offspring become more than mere carbon copies of them. But this does not tell us why parents in virtually every species are either male or female.

For that, the Oxford biologists say, we must look to what happens in sexual reproduction. When cells from egg and sperm fuse, the genetic material in the cell nuclei comes together. But what becomes of the other genetic material in the cytoplasm of the cell? Mitochondria, for example, the powerhouses of the cell, also have their own DNA, which does not fuse. There is therefore a danger that rival mitochondria could come to blows. In a two-sex system, according to Drs Hurst and Hamilton, this conflict is avoided by males abandoning their right to pass on their mitochondria. All the mitochondria in offspring come from the mother. This avoids conflicts, so long as we choose mates of the opposite sex — as we must if we wish to reproduce.

The clinching evidence came in an obscure paper from Hiroshima University, in which the zoologist Tadao Takahashi described a species of ciliate (a single-celled aquatic microbe) that engages in two different types of sex — fusion sex, when the entire cell is combined, and conjugatory sex, when only the cell nuclei are exchanged. Those engaging in the first form have only two sexes, those using the second have a much wider choice of mates.

This seemed to prove that any species using fusion sex — as human beings do — was bound to come in only two genders. The whole elegant thesis was threatened, however, by the slime mould *Physarum polycephalum*, the organism with 13 sexes. In this species, it turns out, there is a hierarchy which determines which partner shall pass on the cytoplasmic genes, and which shall not. Each sex has to give way to the one above it in the hierarchy.

If slime moulds can do this, why not human beings? Dr Hurst believes that the arrangement employed by the slime mould is highly unstable, because it can easily be disrupted by a mutant set of mitochondria that rebels against the hierarchy. As it happens, a slime mould in exactly this state of internal conflict has been found and described by another Japanese scientist. To Dr Hurst, that seems more than a coincidence. He says that systems like the slime mould, with its baroque complexity of sexual types, may evolve from time to time but will not last long, collapsing or reverting to simpler two-sex systems. In short, it would seem that having only two sexes is the price we pay for belonging to a stable species able to perpetuate itself for ever. What we lose in variety, we gain in stability.

Help for home-owners is futile while saving is being encouraged, argues Anatole Kaletsky

Splashing out on recovery

In the last two weeks the tabloids have been full of warnings about higher mortgage rates, undermining what little confidence was left in the housing market and the high streets. The immediate threat to mortgage rates has come not from John Major's monetary submission to Germany, but from the Treasury's sheer greed.

By setting very high interest rates on National Savings, the Treasury has been sucking money out of the retail savings market on which the building societies depend to fund their mortgages. That is the bad news.

The good news is that two confrontations in two weeks between the building societies and the Treasury have both ended in clear defeat for the Treasury. The rates offered on National Savings have been cut and the threat of higher mortgage rates has receded. If the building societies had really wrested control over Britain's economic policy from Norman Lamont, as some cynical commentators have suggested, the Treasury now sees higher house prices as a key economic objective. Even with the election

out of the way, the government will do everything in its power to avoid higher mortgage rates.

Secondly, the Treasury seems to have understood that the structure of British interest rates is no longer determined by the government's borrowing needs or by the balance of savings and investment, but by the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

Far from necessitating high interest rates, the public sector borrowing requirement of around £30 billion and the present high level of government spending, would be compatible with mortgage and bank lending rates far below the present 10 to 11 per cent if Britain were outside the ERM.

Conversely, reducing government borrowing or freezing public sector wages would not allow the Treasury to lower interest rates one iota. In fact, in the looking-glass world of the ERM, lower public borrowing could easily undermine demand

and weaken sterling, necessitating higher interest rates, rather than lower ones. It is because of the ERM, not because of the government's high borrowing, that Britain must pay 10 per cent interest rates to foofoo international investors and currency speculators to defend sterling. But interest rates faced by domestic savers and borrowers must be kept as low as possible to promote economic recovery.

This leads to the third offence against Treasury orthodoxy represented by the climbdown on National Savings. Government officials appear to have realised that even in free financial markets, there is some scope for the government to influence the direction of savings and to favour some borrowers at the expense of others.

Governments in other ERM countries overtly manage their flows of national savings and investment on a scale that would be unimaginable in free-market Britain. In a small way, the

Treasury may finally be accepting that free-market purity will have to give way to interventionism if the British economy is to survive in the ERM.

The money for National Savings comes entirely from personal savings within Britain. They are not going to exchange their nest eggs for marks, francs or pesos when sterling interest rates fall. Instead, that will put their money into building societies, helping to keep mortgage rates down.

But by cutting National Savings rates and allowing more money to flow to the building societies, the Treasury might lose up to £400 million of monthly inflows from British retail deposits. This money would have to be borrowed in the gilt-edged market instead.

By contrast, the holders of gilt-edged securities, Treasury bills and large money market deposits, are mostly large investment institutions, both from Britain and overseas.

These are the people the government has to satisfy if it wants to keep sterling within the ERM. If the government raised less money through National Savings and borrowed more through the gilt market, gilt-edged interest rates would tend to rise, making sterling more attractive, while the pressure on building societies and mortgage rates would ease.

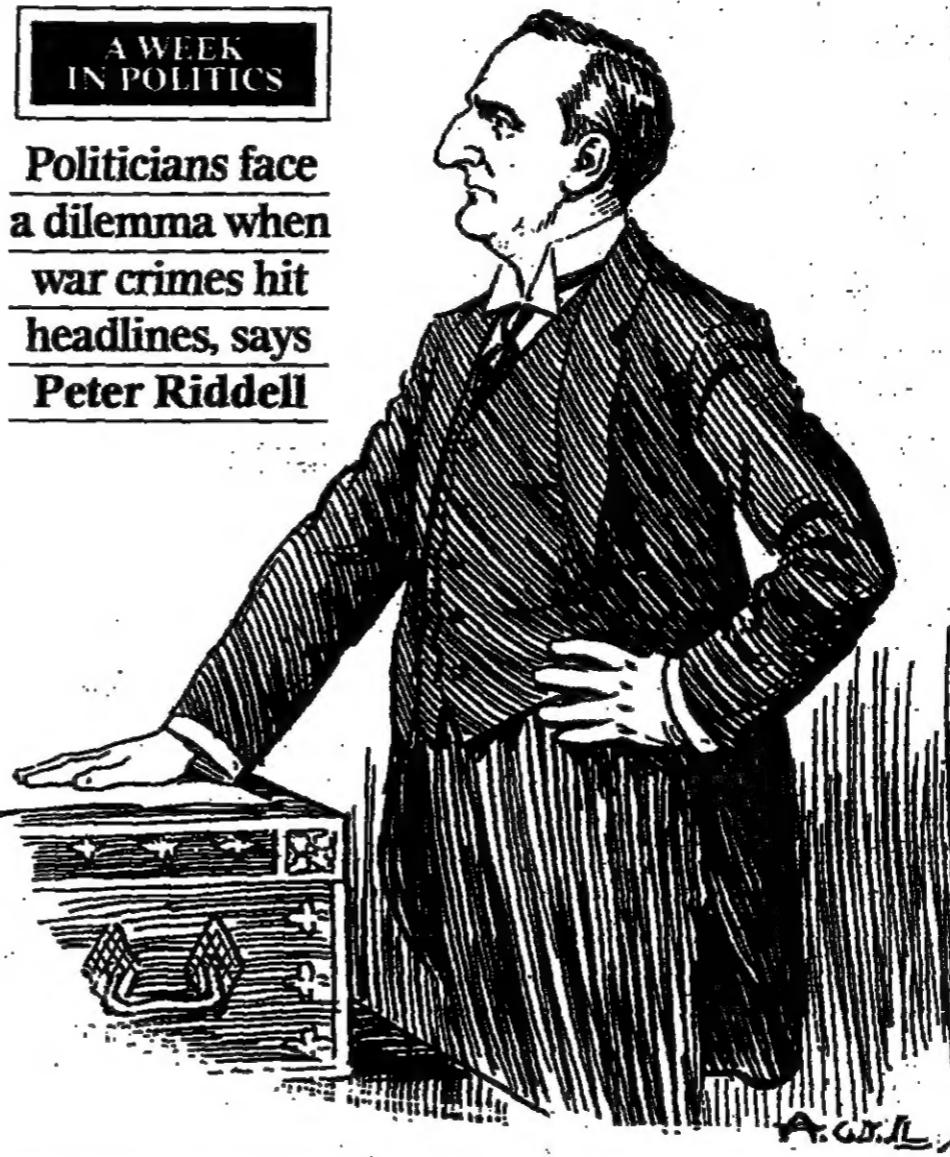
The logical conclusion of such a policy would be to suspend National Savings entirely. Savers who wanted to lend money directly to the government could continue to do so by buying gilts. But why should lending to the government be encouraged by advertising National Savings and selling its products through the Post Office? The National Savings system was designed to encourage personal thrift and discourage spending in wartime. But thrift can be counter-productive in the depth of an economic slump.

Today, the government's priority should be to promote spending and investment, not saving. Perhaps the Treasury is starting to understand this. If so, an economic recovery should be on the way.

The politics of atrocity

A WEEK IN POLITICS

Politicians face a dilemma when war crimes hit headlines, says Peter Riddell



Dragged into war: Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary in 1914, admits diplomacy has failed

former Soviet Union and in African countries like Somalia. We care because we see the killings on television and fellow white Europeans are involved.

The West has done what it always does in such situations, condemn and impose sanctions. But these are generally ineffective. The real question is whether to take military action, as the Americans did in Panama in

December 1989. Anything short of such intervention looks like a weak gesture. Not to do anything, however, is to concede the ineffectiveness of international diplomacy in face of determined thugs. So what used to be called the Great Powers have grappled with the disintegration of Yugoslavia. They were slow to recognise the rush into war, and muddled in their

recognition of the breakaway republics (largely because of the clumsiness of Germany). But their line has shifted, and is shifting, towards greater involvement. Thousands of United Nations troops are in Croatia in a partially successful peacekeeping role and less successfully in Bosnia in trying to ensure delivery of relief supplies.

The debate now is mainly

about whether to extend the military protection of these supplies. There is a fine line in practice between protection and aggressive action against hostile groups. The difference between Mr Major, President Bush and their critics is in assessing what is feasible. Several of the options suggested by the critics were yesterday ruled out by Mr Major in a letter to Mr Ashdown. "Air power would be unlikely to be enough, given the guerrilla nature of the fighting, the terrain and the sort of weapons being used. All the advice I have tells me that we cannot use force as you propose without disproportionate risk to the lives of civilians and our armed forces."

The view in Whitehall — reinforced by Douglas Hurd's visit to the area last month — is that air power would be useless in stopping constantly moving snipers or people firing mortars in a city like Sarajevo, while tens of thousands of troops would be required to end the fighting. Military action might not be welcomed by the relief agencies which need to be seen as neutral.

Despite these well-founded fears, pressure for action has grown. In America, the latest reports about concentration camps have evoked memories of the Holocaust and an already weak president is again in danger of looking ineffective in face of increased Democrat criticism. Some officials in Washington are blaming British and French caution. Any initiative will probably involve trying to improve the protection of convoys, increased humanitarian support and a fresh look at creating safe havens. That, and any punitive military action, will be linked to the conference in London on August 26.

This may not sound very much, but belated incrementalism is the most that western leaders reckon either that their publics will permit or that is practicable. Whatever we say, we cannot stop the killing. Like Baldwin, Mr Major is discovering the difficulties of candour in foreign policy.

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

We are three. We gather on an ad hoc basis in the garden of the pub beside a lock on the River Avon. Our ostensible common interest is boats, which we moor nearby. One of us smokes a briar pipe, another wears a woolly hat. We resemble a freeze-frame from *Last of the Summer Wine*.

We are dressed in slacks and shirts of various colours, depending on which marine paint is in use that day. We muck and we sip. Round and about, a bit of business is being done, of the sort that is recession-proof.

A boy who is all of 12 years old squats on the lock gate, dangling from a piece of rope a sea magnet, which is to say, that works under water. You need a special windlass to equalise the water level in a lock and people drop them overboard all the time. They cost nine quid new, the boy reckons three quid secondhand to locals, a fiver to tourists in rented narrow boats, a tenner on one momentous occasion when a family got into the lock but dropped the windlass before they could get out.

"Captive market, see?" says the boy, elated beyond his years. Maybe four a week, he says. At 12, it's a living.

We are wondering, we three, if his activities extend fifty yards upstream, to our moorings. From the merely enterprising to the casually criminal. A tranquil activity, boating, you might think. Another world, far from city hassle and casual, pointless crime. Dream on. We three and

a million more are not so much a leisure activity as a resource centre, an unwitting supplier of goads.

When I encountered a man who said he could not go boating that day because he had lost the combination to the locks that held his mooring ropes in place I thought he must be mad, some kind of gadget-freak. That was as long ago as last week, before I arrived to find that a boat I had tied up the previous night, fore and aft as they say, had somehow spirited itself 200 yards downstream and was sitting in the rushes on top of a weir.

"Nothing in that," said woolly hat. He had recently met a fellow who moored a 30-foot luxury motor cruiser on the Thames, padlocked ropes, the lot. Fort Knox on the water. During the night, according to the way the police pieced it together, a small barge with a lifting hoist on it had arrived. The occupants got past the alarm system, disconnected the inboard engine (no easy task), hoisted it out of the boat and on to the barge.

"Probably met someone in a riverside pub who needed an engine," said briar pipe. "Same sort of thing as the car ringers in London."

A riverside pub? Well quite. I expect half the people seated around us, being tourists, think we have a jolly time, messing about with boats and drifting down here for half a lager and a sandwich. But we are working. We are the eyes and ears of the local boating community, on whose behalf, at the time of writing, we are hoping to buy back one VHF aerial, one outboard engine, one hacksaw (they took away the padlock on the engine), one punctured rubber dinghy, 30 feet of hawser, a compass, two fenders (brand new). We are even in the market for a pane of frosted glass, removed intact with the deft skill of a professional glazier. Mind you, I would not want to exaggerate it took a whole week for that lot to disappear.

The police categorise it as "boat crime" and reports of same draw the kind of glared that you get at West End Central when you tell them the car has been nicked. The paperwork proceeds but both sides of the counter know this ritual is as meaningless as a rain dance. The only difference is that the places you hang out in following a boat crime are a little more congenial than the ones where bits of cars turn up. But there is no noticeable diminution in the level of ire, the amount of gall, just because you are waiting to be taken for a ride in a place with a leaping salmon on its name board as opposed to a king's head.

So we three are sitting here waiting to buy back some things that we already own. The 12-year-old has not been around for a couple of days. Perhaps he has graduated. We can only hope that he will refuse no sensible offer.

Holiday writing

THE Duchess of York has resumed her literary career with a book that combines two subjects close to her heart: travel and the life of Queen Victoria. The illustrated book, provisionally entitled *The Travels of Queen Victoria*, will appear in the autumn of next year.

Victoria was the first monarch to travel extensively in Europe, a habit espoused by her successors, and much of the information for the book will be gleaned from the royal archives at Windsor Castle, which houses her diaries.

Despite her status, the Duchess will not be given preferential treatment. In common with all other royal authors and biographers, she will have to apply for permission from the archive's keeper.

Victoria set the fashion for royal tours in a private capacity under an assumed name of inferior rank. When she went to Switzerland, she travelled under the name of the Countess of Kent and, while forbidding any public demonstration, travelled through France in Napoleon III's imperial train. In March 1858, she became the first British sovereign to set foot on Spanish soil, and there were also trips to Italy and Ireland.

The Duchess, who knows a thing or two about holidays, is expected to retrace some of Victoria's journeys for the book. "There are still many things to be sorted out," says a spokeswoman for her publishers, Weidenfeld & Nicolson. "The Duchess's last book, *Victoria and Albert: Life at Osborne House*, was well done and sold very well."

Lady Longford, biographer of Queen Victoria, says diplomatically: "It should be a fascinating book if the Duchess is given access to the diaries. Queen Victoria was



smoking Havana cigars — are generous in bestowing these expensive but deadly trinkets. One former minister is said to have eight. The Ozarks may simply be using their privileged status to import items on behalf of a list of friends. Even so, one Turkish magazine estimates the cost of 179 guns dished out so far at more than half a million pounds.

The debate now is mainly

and the porkers tended to paint in mid-air. Tim Harris, a pig breeder advising the Mexicans, says: "We have had to pay particular attention to the air-conditioning and install an automatic watering system. Pigs which have already made the flight seem to have found it extremely comfortable."

Mystery sail

THE new owner of the Lady Ghislaine was going to Maxwellian lengths to ensure secrecy last night, including registering the yacht under the name of an off-the-peg company.

Cowes was buzzing with the news that the boat had been sold after being advertised locally, but the identity of the reclusive Saudi Arabian sheikh was being kept close to the chest of the receivers and the yachting brokers all of whom had signed secrecy clauses.

The mystery sheikh already has one yacht, albeit smaller than the 180 ft Ghislaine. He is unlikely to remain a recluse for long. The yacht, which costs more than £1 million a year to run, does tend to dominate the shoreline.

As glasnost reaches the Kremlin, a picture of Russian bureaucracy emerges of which Sir Humphry Appleby would be proud. When Stalin was in power, departmental heads were served tea and sandwiches during their daily break. Junior officials were entitled to tea only. At one stage, a new title — deputy departmental head — was introduced. Meetings were convened to decide whether the new appointees were entitled to sandwiches with their tea. After some wrangling, a compromise was reached. Deputy departmental heads would be served tea without sandwiches but would be supplied with a paper napkin.



BOSNIAN HORRORS

Revolt details are now emerging of the camps set up in Bosnia by the invading Serbs. Women and children are being herded at gunpoint into schools, halls and warehouses during the repulsive practice of "ethnic cleansing". From these detention centres they are being forced onto trains, to be exiled from their homeland. Men of fighting age, whether captured in the field or simply hauled out of their homes, are being sent to interrogation centres where conditions are inhumane. Many have been killed by random executions. Food is scarce. Brutality is commonplace.

These reports are not the exaggerations of opportunists trying to whip up Western sympathy. They are the chilling assessments by officials in London, Washington and at the United Nations, and by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Journalists have penetrated behind the front lines and into the hideous ruins of communities that have been "cleansed", to bring back pictures of mutilated bodies and piecemeal evidence of inhumanity on a massive scale. The emotional impact on Western public opinion will be enormous. The scars of memory over Nazi concentration camps are still vivid weeds on the West's conscience.

It is already too late in much of Bosnia. The killings and deportations have happened. Now a frantic clean-up is beginning as the world demands to see what has been going on. While it is clear the camps — mostly stadiums, schools and warehouses — are not concentration camps in the Auschwitz sense of systematic centres of death, enough has been seen to force a drastic reappraisal of the war in Yugoslavia and its implications for humanity.

Nowhere will such a reappraisal have more impact than in America. Not only are there groups and communities especially sensitive to organised persecution — the Jews being probably the most vocal — but this is election year. Foreign policy traditionally plays little role in the choosing of the president. But this year things are different. Mr Bush has laid himself open to attack over

Yugoslavia. Having made his expertise in dealing with a turbulent world a main plank of his candidacy, his reluctance to be drawn into the Yugoslav imbroglio is attracting outrage and opprobrium.

The Democrats, swiftly discarding their earlier caution, are comparing his policy to the appeasement of Hitler. "Stop the death camp" the newspaper advertisements demand. Is it possible, they ask, that 50 years after the Holocaust the nations of the world, including America, will stand by and do nothing, pretending they are helpless?

In his failing efforts to find an electorally popular policy, Mr Bush may now be tempted into a simplistic commitment to send in the troops to try to liberate the camps immediately. Intervention looks ever more likely, as the balance between military caution and political calculation is altered by the weight of public outrage. And with America committed on the ground, Western Europe would surely have to follow.

The West must therefore at least draw up contingency plans. Nato, the Western European Union and national armies must now work out the logistics for what they have long warned against: involvement of troops as well as aircraft. There are still good reasons why intervention could prolong the bloodshed, though the calculation of risk must change with time. There is still hope that negotiations could succeed and humanitarian relief alleviate the suffering. There are still injustices in fixing all the blame on one side, as there is little doubt that the Croats and Muslims have also committed atrocities and set up detention centres for Serbs.

But Western leaders should not underestimate the shudder of revulsion engendered by the obscene pictures and grisly accounts of torture and death. It is no use waiting another three weeks for the international conference in London on Yugoslavia. Mr Bush must consult urgently now with other world leaders on a well planned response to such bestiality. If the pressure of domestic US opinion to intervene becomes irresistible, he had better get it right.

A DISCORDANT WHISTLE

The political sensitivity of the National Health Service reforms made it understandable that the first few "internal market" trust hospitals should threaten to sack employees who talked out of turn. The success or failure of the reforms is a matter of intense and legitimate public interest. No facts, no debate, no debate, no confidence.

The health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, has therefore wisely insisted that health service employees with a genuine tale of woe should not be forced into silence by the threat of dismissal. She has not yet done enough to translate those good intentions into action, though her decision to have yesterday's appeal against dismissal by Dr Helen Zeitlin, a consultant haematologist, heard in public, was a move of the right kind. Dr Zeitlin claims to have blown a whistle on the run down of nursing staff in the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, near Birmingham, which she said had put patient care at risk.

Even when they are wrong, doctors and nurses should be allowed to make such points. The answer to even mischievous or misleading information is to swamp it with the fair and accurate kind, not to gag everything and everyone. In this case, as the evidence showed, Dr Zeitlin's complaints were far from groundless. The suspicion remains that her employer, which imposed redundancy on her, was simply trying to shut her up. Mrs Bottomley should use the Zeitlin case to demonstrate that this will not be tolerated.

This is not an issue confined to the health service. Many employers dislike the idea that any one of their employees may "blow a whistle" at any time, accusing them of some unsafe or otherwise bad practice. This was a notable cause of industrial unrest on North Sea oil rigs two years ago, when there was disturbing evidence that workers reporting

unsafe conditions were being victimised. Clauses in contracts of employment demanding confidentiality from employees are almost invariably against the public interest. They can only be justified where genuine commercial secrets are at stake, such as the formula of a new product. Where a disclosure has had serious adverse consequences, an employer may still rely on the right to dismiss an employee for the general offence of gross misconduct.

This is one area where the decline of trade unionism in the workplace may create a vacuum in which the twin miscreants of excessive secrecy and malicious denunciation will flourish. Such intermediate institutions between employer and employee can act as a lightning conductor. Employee organisations have channels outside line management by which employee concerns can be addressed without them being personalised into accusations of disloyalty.

The Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 is a model of its kind in this respect, as shown by its having survived intact through 13 years of Tory industrial relations legislation. It gives employees who wish to report unsafe practices a privileged route to go down without jeopardising their jobs. It makes whistle-blowing ultimately unnecessary.

But it refers only to dangers to employees, not to the general public. It may not be appropriate to widen the scope of the act to refer to threats to the health and safety of the public. But employers can learn from the spirit, if not the letter, of the 1974 Act. It sets a standard of measured and responsible reaction by employers to health and safety alarms raised by their employees. Only when such channels do not exist, or employees do not trust them, will whistles be blown in public. It is the sound of distrust in a workforce, the sound of bad management.

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WHEN COLUMNS CRUMBLE

They are worried about the Old Man of Hoy. He is in danger of crumbling, so losing his place as the tallest and most television rock pillar in Britain. The Orkney Islands council is reported to be agonising over ways to protect their colossus from the ravages of old age and of the Atlantic hammering relentlessly at his feet.

If the Old Man is to retain his giant stature, four times the height of Nelson's column, something must be done. A gentle decline into old age is not an option if you are a sea stack. The huge wedge of sandstone near the summit through which daylight now shines weighs an uncalculable tonnage. Its collapse could have unpredictable consequences for the rest of the tottering 500ft high tower.

The possible loss of the Old Man, formed from the natural erosion of the huge sea cliffs on the west coast of Hoy, is alarming the council. At risk is the main attraction that brings hundreds of visitors to the island. The task of working the geological equivalent of a heart-lung transplant will be beyond the skills of the island's works department. Bold and full of hopeless optimism would be the council gang who arrived with their cement mixer at the foot of this particular contract. The pillar does not get any narrower from base to square-cut summit, nor does the maximum diameter ever exceed 100 feet, yet this extraordinary freak of nature has weathered the island's most violent gales.

Climbers insist that if the Old Man tumbles, they will have had little to do with his fall. The passage of a few score pairs of boots over the last 26 years cannot be compared with the damage inflicted by

countless centuries of Orcadian weather. But to anyone with the least urge to climb steep rock, this monolithic pillar is an irresistible challenge. To a climber's eye close inspection reveals an abundance of holds, to aid progress up the column's flanks.

Orcadians look askance at those who arrive to add their names, with firm or trembling hand, to the paper kept in a tin on the summit of the Old Man. They have included at least one young boy, a pensioner, and even a gentleman from *The Times*. But the islanders, normally most hospitable and friendly, distance themselves from any responsibility for the team of rope-wreathed individuals who take the cliff top walk to the Old Man. A large sign at the ferry terminal warns all climbers attempting the ascent that they are on their own. There is neither the equipment, the skill, nor maybe the inclination among Hoy folk, to swarm up the stack to help any faltering foot.

Yet the Old Man exerts a fascination which glued 15 million people to their television screens 25 years ago when a group of climbers made their dizzy way to the top during one of the most successful outside broadcasts ever. Remnants of those early ascents remain in loops of old nylon and wedges of wood hammered for safety into the Old Man's side. Many a climber since has been glad to grab hold of them.

All things, rock or flesh, have their span. Whatever remedies the council applies, the Old Man will one day collapse, with a roar of apocalyptic thunder echoing across the Pentland Firth. All one can wish is that when it goes, the top is unoccupied, save for a lonely tin box and a copy of *The Times*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Ways to help home-owners with mortgage problems

From Councillor Sehyn Ward

Sir, Abbey National's scheme for asking the tax-payer to pick up the tab for falling house prices has been rightly described by government sources as unworkable (report, August 4). It would bring a new meaning to the term "bed and breakfast" in housing, as home-owners follow the example of shareholders in setting up "bed and breakfast" deals to sell and immediately buy back their home to realise the tax loss.

The Woolwich and the National Westminster Bank are instead urging the government to agree a limited special offer doubling of tax relief for those who buy before a specified deadline (report, August 5).

What short corporate memories these lenders have. When multiple tax relief for joint purchasers was abolished, it resulted in panic buying by bank and building society promotions, scrambled to beat the deadline. Many of those home-owners now in so much difficulty are suffering because they bought at the height of this artificially generated boom.

The remedy for loss of mobility in the housing market caused by borrowers holding a negative equity in their homes lies with the lenders themselves. If a "home-owner" has a mortgage of £60,000 on a house now worth only £50,000, then rather than forcing the borrower to find £10,000 to discharge his mortgage before he can move, the lender should allow the borrower to transfer his loan when he trades properties.

Instead of holding a 120 per cent mortgage on house A, the borrower would hold a 120 per cent mortgage on house B. Neither borrower nor lender would be any worse off, but mobility would be restored to the market.

Such a scheme requires a change in enabling legislation for building societies or banks, then it is this that the societies should be urgently discussing with ministers — not self-serving schemes for government bail-outs and further distortions in the already over-distorted UK housing market.

Yours faithfully,
SELWYN WARD,
London Borough of Bromley,
Members' Room,
Bromley Civic Centre,
Rochester Avenue, Bromley, Kent.

August 5.

From Mr Patrick M. Forman

Sir, Does the urge to build more "affordable" houses stem from the need to house the homeless, or to kick-start the flagging national economy?

All those concerned by the galloping pace of development across the countryside would be enlightened if the building and construction in-

dustries would choose which of these two quite disparate aims they rely upon in making their united pleas for more work.

If their answer is that a slack housing market is bad for the national economy, are we to assume that ever-larger tranches of the remaining countryside must ever be sacrificed in return for future prosperity?

And, for those of us who already have homes, is the national game of playing musical houses really essential to a happy life and a healthy economy while so many other countries seem to manage well enough without the British obsession about owning more bricks and mortar than the next man?

Yours etc.,
PATRICK FORMAN,
25 Devonshire Road, Cambridge.

August 4.

From Mr Martin Hancock

Sir, "Substituted security" is the answer to the housing market, and indeed to stabilise it for the future, for building societies and other mortgage lenders to be induced to offer only fixed interest rate mortgages.

Bumps in the housing market are exaggerated by low interest rates and falls by high interest rates. Variable mortgage interest rates move in line with short-term rates generally and can vary between, say, 8.5 per cent and 16 per cent within less than a year, whereas long-term rates are rarely outside a range of about 9.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

House prices could never have reached the level they did in 1988 if buyers had been obliged to pay a higher, long-term interest rate and those same buyers would have been spared the subsequent dramatic rise in interest rates and corresponding fall in the value of their houses.

The present lack of confidence in the housing market appears to be caused primarily by fear of history repeating itself. No one can predict whether he will keep his job or what will happen to house prices, but common sense indicates that a large measure of confidence would be restored if all potential buyers knew that they could borrow money at, say, 10 per cent a year for at least the next ten years.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HANCOCK,
21a Old Brompton Road, SW5.

From Mr Jim T. Daniels

Sir, In 1976 I sold my house in Bardsley, Oklahoma, for \$45,000; in 1991 the house was advertised for sale at \$49,000. In 1976 I bought a house in Blackpool, Lancashire, for £14,000; today that same house is advertised at £71,750.

From Mr Philip Carter

Sir, Lord Ridley falls prey to the common fault of setting honesty and the truth as twin objectives. Yet the two are at variance with each other.

He writes: "If asked for money for a cause which one does not support, it is better to plead 'I cannot take on any more commitments' than to say one disapproves of the cause." Yet surely this denies moral integrity for the sake of alleged good manners.

If one disapproves of a cause one should have reasons for so doing: if one argues for those reasons it may be that those who support the cause may be able, through open and honest discussion, to convert you or your them. At worst, you will both know where you stand.

Truthfulness and rudeness are not to be confused. One can still have genuine manners without violating the truth. The truth, however harsh it may be, is always therapeutic. It is lies, however well intentioned, that do the damage.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP CARTER,

The White House, 21 Cannon Road,

Southgate, N14.

August 4.

From Mr M. C. Shaw

Sir, I take issue with Lord Ridley's statement that "some people are offensive... for no good reason... abusive in shops". Recently I visited a City shirtmaker in search of detachable collars. The shop assistant received me indifferently while leaning on a counter reading a book.

I drew myself up and said: "You sloppy man. You would never have made my regiment. Stand up and look at me when I am talking to you."

He did!

Yours sincerely,

M. C. SHAW,

Naval & Military Club,

94 Piccadilly, W1.

August 3.

From Miss Lola Gonzalez

Sir, I read N. Ridley's article with increasing disbelief. As a European, I find there is nothing more irritating than the tendency of the English people to say what they think you want to hear. The only clear result is that you never know what the English person really thinks.

Yours etc.,

LOLA GONZALEZ,

33 Gilbert Road, Bromley, Kent.

August 4.

From Mr Andrew Boff

Sir, Do Lord Ridley's rules of etiquette include not being beastly to the Germans?

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW BOFF,

23 Amberley Way,

Hillingdon, Middlesex.

August 3.

Off the road

Differences that manners make

From the Chairman of the Polite Society

Sir, Good manners are in decline, as Lord Ridley asserts in his splendid article, "Snobbery and obnoxious" (Life & Times, August 3). He has stated almost precisely the case that the Polite Society has been making for six years.

The current clamour for a boost to the housing market, a kick-start for home sales, etc — all euphemisms for house price increases — will merely result in the UK house-owner continuing to have less disposable income, with a consequently detrimental effect on the non-housing economy.

Could some of our political leaders take a longer view and leave house prices to drift even lower, for the long-term benefit of the nation's future?

Yours truly,

JIM T. DANIELS.

3 Fowlers Mead, Chobham, Surrey.

August 4.

From Mr Peter P. Pugsley

Sir, "Substituted security" is

the answer to the

housing

market

and

indeed

OBITUARIES

ALEXIS RASSINE

Alexis Rassine, a former leading dancer of the Sadler's Wells Ballet, died on July 25, the day before his 73rd birthday. He was born in Kaunas, Lithuania.

ALEXIS Rassine was a dancer whose flair and talent found exactly their right time. Joining the Sadler's Wells Ballet in 1942 as a principal dancer, he filled the need for a lyrical leading man during the company's wartime tours and intensive London seasons at the New Theatre (now the Albery). On the company's move to Covent Garden in 1946, he remained for almost another decade an outstanding interpreter of certain roles and a valuable member of the group who sustained the leading parts in the classic repertoire. But he became increasingly challenged by a new generation with a more vigorous style, and by the time he left the company in the mid-1950s (shortly before it received its Royal Charter) he was scarcely missed.

His dancing was soft and pliant in a style which would probably not find favour today; perhaps inclined to a certain extravagance, and certainly not noted for virile authority. Although he had the ability to take on roles calling for strong technique, he was never the most brilliant practitioner of them, and it is not as a virtuoso that he is best remembered. But he had a good appearance (unfortunately not improved by plastic surgery late in his career when his handsome curved nose was sadly truncated into what looked more like a button), he manifested a pleasing personality on stage, and had the distinction of partnering many of the leading ballerinas of his day.

He was born in Lithuania, of Russian parents soon after the Russian Revolution; the family name was Rassine or Rassine, which he modified for the stage. They moved to South Africa and he was brought up there, beginning his dance studies when he was about 15. Arriving in Europe in his late teens as a South African

Alexis Rassine in the role of Albrecht in *Giselle*

citizen, he went first to Paris where he studied with two of the great Russian emigre teachers, Preobrazhenska and Volinine, and made his stage debut dancing in a revue at the Bal Tabarin. But he was unable to win admission to the Ballet at the Paris Opera, so he moved to Britain where a brief engagement with Ballet Rambert in 1938 left no great mark.

After further studies with Volkova and Idzikovska, he joined John Regan's Ballets Trots and Arts for its 1939-40 season at the Lyric, Hammersmith, where he was one of several young dancers entrusted with solo parts. When lack of funds made them suspend activities, he went to the Arts Theatre Ballet directed by Keith Lester but soon moved to the

Anglo-Polish Ballet on its foundation in 1940 and became prominent during its successful tours.

By early 1942, Ninette de Valois was urgently seeking replacements for the leading men who had left the Sadler's Wells Ballet to join the armed forces or to dance elsewhere. Rassine was invited to join in March 1942 and at once took leading roles in *Les Sylphides*, Ashton's *Flapade* (dancing the Popular Song) and *Les Rendezvous*, the Bluebird in *The Sleeping Beauty* and as Franz in *Coppélia* — a role he was to make very much his own, dancing it nearly a hundred times over the next ten years, far more than any of its other partners.

Before 1942 was over he had the first of his surprisingly few created roles, as the Dove in Robert Helpmann's *The Birds* (partnering the 15-year-old Beryl Grey), and soon there followed further parts in Ashton's patriotic creation *The Quest* and as the Blue Skater in *Les Patineurs*, in de Valois' *The Gods Go A-Begging* and *The Prospect Before Us*, Harlequin in *Le Carnaval*, Albrecht in *Giselle*, and partnering the 18-year-old Moira Shearer as the lover in Helpmann's *Miracle in the Gondola*.

During the 1944-45 season *Le Spectre de la Rose* was revived for Margot Fonteyn and Rassine; he also partnered Fonteyn in the premiere of the new production of *Giselle* after the Sadler's Wells Ballet's move to Covent Garden in 1946. However, he was soon superseded as Fonteyn's frequent partner by Michael Somes. Curiously, it was some years before Rassine was given the "prince" roles in *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

He gave a memorably crisp, dapper account of the Snob in Massine's 1947 revival of *La Boutique Fantasque*, and although he did not prove the most warlike of Red Knights when de Valois's *Checkmate* was restored to the repertoire that year, he had notable success in two of

her other productions: as a dandyish friend of the Rake in *The Rake's Progress* and as Elihu in *Job*, bringing consolation and faith to the title character. De Valois also made for him the "Golden Age" duet in her 1950 *Don Quixote* to Roberto Gerhard's score.

When Ashton created *Cinderella* in 1948 and *Sylvia* in 1952, Rassine was one of the men sharing the leading roles, but not in the opening cast; he did however have parts made for him by Ashton in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* (the hybrid production with which Sadler's Wells Ballet helped launch the Covent Garden Opera) and Nadia Nerina's partner in *Homage to the Queen*. Rassine danced often with Nerina; they toured South Africa together with a concert programme in 1952, ending with a guest season of *Swan Lake* in Johannesburg. In 1955 they undertook a longer tour of 35,000 miles through much of Africa, concluding with 14 performances of *Giselle* in a fortnight in Cape Town.

It was about this time that Rassine left the Covent Garden company; the writing was on the wall with a new, more robust staging of *Coppélia*, in 1954 in which his old role went to the new generation led by David Blair. However, he and Nerina undertook concert tours of a British Highlife programme through British cities, giving five items a night, six times a week. Among other choices they mounted a two person version of *L'Après-midi d'un Faune*. Rassine also appeared occasionally as guest with the Walter Gore Ballet, and with his old company at Covent Garden, including his farewell performances in 1958 when he partnered the French guest ballerina Yvette Chauvain.

After leaving the stage Rassine took some private pupils but lived mostly in retirement in the country house which he shared with (and later inherited from) his close friend the writer and publisher John Lehmann.

APPRECIATIONS

Robert Liddell

ROBERT Liddell (obituary, July 27) was deeply affected all his life by the theme of unkind step-parents and unhappy childhood. It arose from his own experience but what came, too, out of the latter was intense affection for his younger brother, Donald. In the late 1930s they shared a flat in north Oxford whose atmosphere is so memorably described in *The Last Enchantments*, only very partially a novel. Reading it I still recover the feel of 86b Banbury Road. They were pacifists, and as the war grew closer Robert went to work in Helsinki and then in Alexandria, but Donald stayed at home to be called up and suffer the strain of conscientious objection.

A young man of exceptional gentleness, Donald found himself a member of a bomb disposal squad and victim of the fibres to which the conscientious objector was often subjected. Later in the war he volunteered to be a stretcher bearer in the Parachutists and was killed in Normandy in June 1944, only a few days after landing. For Robert the death of his brother was devastating. *The Last Enchantments* includes a large and apparently somewhat unattractive Catholic family arriving on an upper floor. In fact, in Robert's absence, Donald found a new home in our midst. The Catholicism Robert had embraced as a young man remained, nevertheless, one of the only things which had separated him from Donald and in memory he found even such separation painful.



Enchantments was dedicated to his memory, but it made him feel he could never return to live in England.

The Last Enchantments includes a large and apparently somewhat unattractive Catholic family arriving on an upper floor. In fact, in Robert's absence, Donald found a new home in our midst. The Catholicism Robert had embraced as a young man remained, nevertheless, one of the only things which had separated him from Donald and in memory he found even such separation painful.

Professor Adrian Hastings

Lieutenant-Colonel

Walter Hingston

Your obituary of Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Hingston (August 1) refers too briefly to his work as Information Officer to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Hingston occupied this post during the construction of the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank. His handling of the complex public relations was masterly and without his help and wisdom it is doubtful if the project would have survived. The investigation of the cost of the instrument by the Public Accounts Committee led to legal complications that nearly proved disastrous for the telescope and the observatory.

I remember with gratitude Hingston's constant guidance and calm optimism throughout those years of suspense. In 1987, the thirtieth anniversary of the first operation of the



telescope, Hingston returned to Jodrell Bank. He was then sightless but assured us that he had no difficulty in visualising the telescope and that he, rightly, regarded his association with its creation as a most important part of his life's work.

Sir Bernard Lovell

Juanita

THE Ganjou Brothers and Juanita (obituary, July 30) worked for my father, George Black, many times at the London Palladium and on the Moss Empire Circuit.

As you state, Juanita was a diminutive figure who was hurried across the stage to be caught by one of the Brothers, Bob. If, however, they made a mistake during the act, when they came off stage the tiny Juanita would give them a real dressing down, berating the three husky brothers until they fled to their dressing room for sanctuary.



Juanita, partnered by the Ganjou Brothers

Alfred Black

August 7 ON THIS DAY 1925

This outbreak of exceptional pitiless violence was all the more unexpected because the six-month strike seemed to be petering out as the government negotiated a truce with the union leaders. It looked, therefore, like a last desperate throw by the extremists.

AMMANFORD RIOT

POLICE IN DESPERATE FIGHT

There are many bandaged heads in the streets of Ammanford today as the result of the rioting last night. Eleven large motor lorries filled with police from Cardiff arrived this afternoon. There are now cordons of police in the streets, and it seems clear that any processions or new demonstrations that the strikers may try to organize will be dispersed as constituting unlawful assemblies. There are now probably over 200 police in the neighbourhood — a force which, it is thought, is sufficient to cope with any conceivable emergency. The course of events may be outlined as follows:

The mob marched through the pinhead, headed by their leaders, though it is only fair to assume that the latter accompanied the men in order to see if they could exercise a moderating influence. In the colliery office yard were a number of police, not exceeding a dozen, and they kept quiet. The men's leaders halted some distance away to hold a council, but the rest of the crowd surged on and began to throw stones at the windows of the offices. The Deputy Chief Constable, seeking to avert trouble, came out from the yard and addressed the men, at the same time dispatching a message to the leaders. While

the leaders of the assault had taken the precaution of throwing out large bodies of pickets to wait for the arrival of the police, and also to turn back any other persons who had entered in reaching the scene. One motor brake charged through the crowd and got to the centre of the fighting, bringing much-needed relief to the hard-pressed local police, but the other brakes were surrounded by a furious mob, which hurled every sort of missile it could obtain at the police ... The struggle was a keen one, for many of the men had armed themselves with staves and pieces of iron, while there was a constant shower of stones, bricks, and other missiles. By this time the alarm had been circulated generally, and from all the surrounding areas relief parties began to pour in, many of the men being strange to the locality.

HARROLD CARSWELL

G. Harrold Carswell, whose nomination to the United States Supreme Court by President Nixon in 1970 sparked a political storm, died in Tallahassee, Florida, on July 31 aged 72. He was born in Irwin, Georgia.

HARROLD Carswell never made it to the Supreme Court bench, and perhaps the most surprising thing about his attempt to get there was that he was chosen in the first place. He was not, his supporters were forced to admit, a great legal brain.

"Even if he is mediocre," argued Republican Senator Roman Hruska at Carswell's confirmation hearing, "there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they, and a little chance?" That quotation won Senator Hruska an enmity in Barlett's *Familiar Quotations*, but it did little to convince the Senate, which rejected Carswell's nomination by 51 votes to 45. He was only the third Supreme Court nominee this century to be turned down.

In truth, Harrold Carswell was the victim of a party political conflict over the composition of the Supreme Court which had little to do with his personal merits. The issue was the philosophical bent of the court, with liberals and conservatives, then as now, locked in a great legal brain.

Rejected by the Senate, Carswell resigned from the appeals court. He sought the Republican nomination for the United States Senate from Florida, but was defeated in the primary and went back to corporate law.

In 1976 Carswell was fined \$100 on a conviction for making a sexual advance to a plain clothes male police officer for promotion to Chief Justice.

This particular struggle had its origins in President Johnson's 1968 attempt to nominate Justice Abe Fortas for promotion to Chief Justice.

New role for Lord Armstrong

Orkney seeks to save Old Man of Hoy from ravages of time

BY KERRY GILL

FEARS for the future of the Old Man of Hoy, the 450ft rock that sticks out of the Atlantic on the extreme west coast of Orkney, have prompted an investigation into ways of mounting a rescue.

Orkney council has announced that it is to hold discussions over how to save the rock after warnings that it may eventually crumble into the sea, depriving the archipelago of one of its best known attractions. An engineering company has offered to assess the severity of the threat to the Old Man, by establishing sophisticated electronic monitoring equipment on the rock and on the nearby cliffs, to measure the extent of the erosion.

The Old Man, which is as high as St Paul's Cathedral and considered to be the supreme test of a rock climber's ability, has attracted climbers as young as 7 and as old as 67. It was first scaled in 1966, although legend has it that an islander once climbed it to the top and down again.

realised that he had forgotten his pipe, and dashed back up to retrieve it. Last year Ron Faux, a journalist for *The Times*, climbed the stack to mark the 25th anniversary of the first successful attempt. He recalls the event with recurring spasms of terror.

Britain's highest free-standing sea stack has been the focus of many successful attempts since, and of military exercises and television broadcasts, but the ravages of storms and a generation of climbers' pincers have begun to take their toll.

In truth the pile's future is not so much threatened by the attentions of rock climbers as by the ravages of the weather and the sea. Water finds cracks at the top and when it freezes the rock tends to split. This, coupled with sea action at its base, is creating the greatest danger. Experts are divided over whether the Old Man could crumble within a few years or remain for centuries. It was once part of a headland, but became separated

from the shore by wind and wave erosion.

Alastair Scholze, chairman of the Orkney tourist board and the council's vice-chairman, has expressed horror at the thought that one of the attractions of the archipelago should be under threat. "It is vital to save the Old Man," he said. "We cannot afford to lose our most important natural monument. At this stage it must be possible to do something at a reasonable cost."

Howie Firth, another councilor, said: "Nature is very difficult to reverse although there could be a fairly simple solution."

Phil Davies, of the engineers Mott MacDonald, Scotland, said: "It would be possible to detect if cracks on the Old Man are widening and to see whether the rock stack is slowly collapsing inwards. We have a team of engineering geologists. Many of them can climb and they are dead keen to have a go."

Church news

Clergy Appointments

The Rev Roger Jackson, Assistant Curate, St John the Evangelist, Hale (Cheshire); to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, St. Catherine, Barrow-in-Furness (Lancaster).

The Rev Canon Christopher Lewis, Team Rector, Whistable Team Ministry; to be also Rural Dean of Reculver (Canterbury).

The Rev Thomas Lynds, Priest-in-charge, Rainham w. South Hornchurch w. Wennington; to be the incumbent of Rainham w. Wennington in the new group ministry of Rainham w. Wennington, South Hornchurch, St John and St Matthew (Chelmsford).

The Rev Simon May, Curate, Tamworth (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Whitchurch (Exeter).

The Rev Vera Morgan, Parish Deacon, St Martin's, Peterborough (Ripon); to be Parish Deacon, St Luke's, Longsight (Manchester).

The Rev Michael Power, Curate, Rainham; to be Priest-in-charge, South Hornchurch, St John and St Matthew (Chelmsford).

The Rev Canon Grant Welsh, Curate, Loughborough, St John; to be Team Rector, Loughborough Team Ministry (Chelmsford).

The Rev Christopher Pullin, Vicar, New Eltham All Saints (Southwark); to be Vicar, St John in Bedwardine, Worcester (Worcester).

The Rev John Record, Vicar, Hawksworth; to be Reappointed Rural Dean of West Cheshire.

(Cheshire) for a second term of three years.

The Rev John Studdards, Assistant Curate, Hale (Cheshire); to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels w. St Catherine, Barrow-in-Furness (Lancaster).

The Rev Frank Sudworth, Vicar, Christ Church, Upper Arnley; to be also Rural Dean of Arnley (Ripon).

The Rev Cherry Vann, Parish Deacon, St Michael, Flixton; to be Chaplain to the Bolton Institute of Higher Education, and Bolton Metropolitan College of Further Education (Manchester).

The Rev David Vince, Assistant Priest, St Giles, Cripplegate w. St Bartholomew, Moors Lane (London); to be Rector, Salwarpe and Hindlip w. Marin Hussinge (Worcester).

The Rev Graham Weir, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary's, High Crompton, Shaw; to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mark's, Heyside, Royton, Manchester.

The Rev Canon Grant Welsh, Curate, Loughborough, St John; to be Team Rector, Loughborough Team Ministry (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Wheeler, Curate, Hyde (Cheshire); to be Curate, Knarborough (Ripon).

The Rev Roger White, formerly Rector, Bawdsey and Harborough Magna and Vicar, Monk's Kirby w. Stow-on-the-Wold (Gloucester); to be Priest-in-charge, St Anne, Lydney w. Christ Church, Painswick (Gloucester).

The Rev John Record, Vicar, Hawksworth; to be Reappointed Rural Dean of West Cheshire.

Scottish courts will be televised

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE supreme court of Scotland are to let in television cameras for the first time in British legal history.

The move is aimed at showing people how justice is administered and dispelling any misunderstanding created by programmes such as *LA Law*.

Lord Hope, Lord President of the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme court, said yesterday that he believed that there was now sufficient support within the judiciary and the legal profession for a change to be made. "It is also in the public interest that people in Scotland should become more aware of the way in which justice is being administered in their own courts," he said.

There was a risk, otherwise, that they might be misled by seeing on television what went on in other countries' courts.

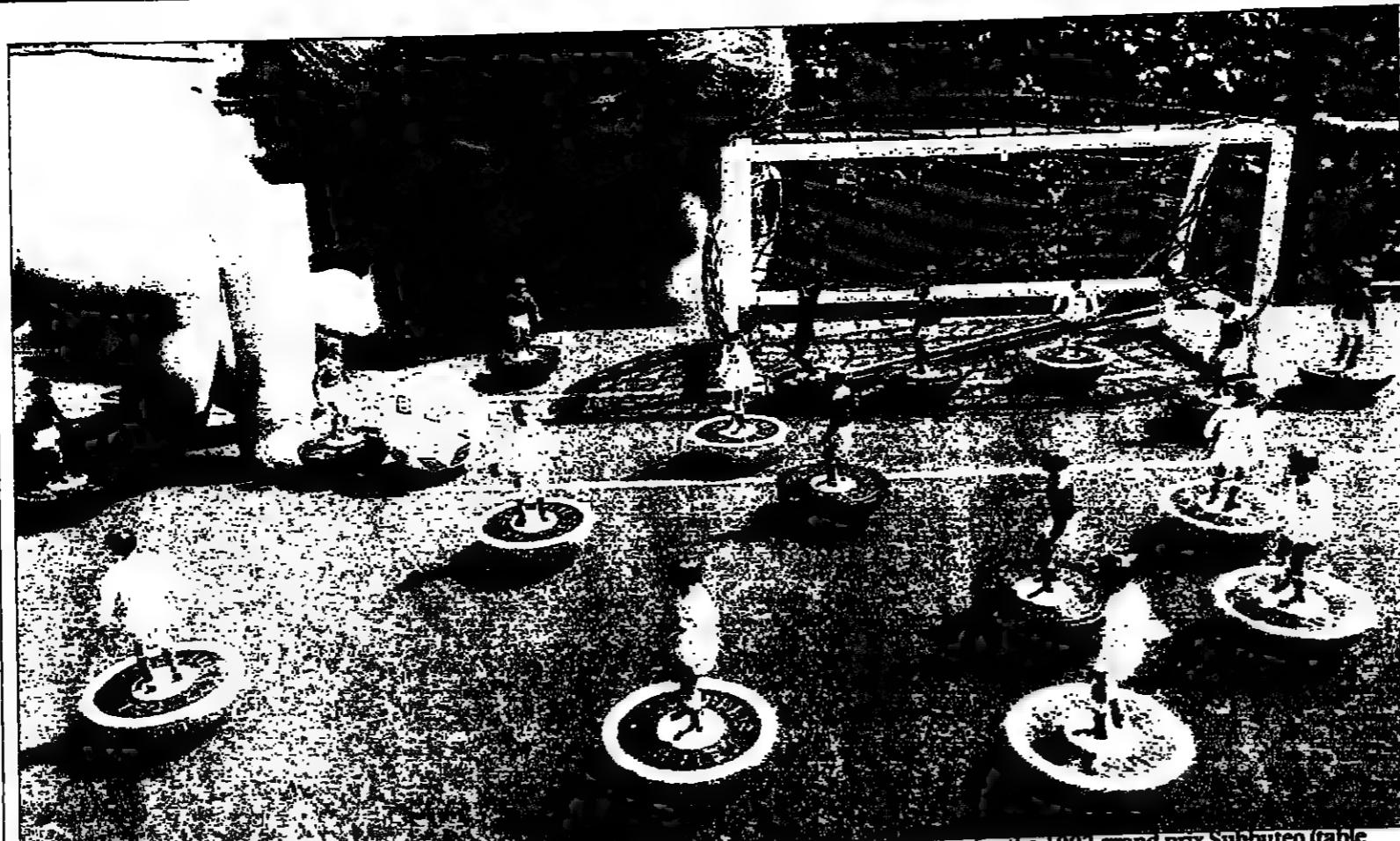
The lead taken in Scotland, where it is proposed to allow cameras into a range of proceedings after experiments, is now certain to be followed in England and Wales, although legislation would be needed south of the border.

The Bar in England and Wales has campaigned for three years for a pilot project to test cameras in court, and the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, has indicated that he favours televising certain hearings.

Jonathan Caplan, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, welcomed the Scottish decision, but said that it would be "bizarre if those north of the border can now reap the educational value of allowing broadcasters into their courts under strictly controlled conditions while south of the border we must continue to rely on the newspaper report and the television reporter's summary".

Mr Caplan said: "Television is the single most important source of information for the majority of our population. It would provide greater public access to the courts and would permit personal observations on a large scale of how courts work."

Cameras are likely to be allowed to film the Scottish Court of Criminal Appeal, and the Judiciary Appeal Court and Court of Session Appeals if presiding judges agree, but not ongoing criminal trials.



Tackling champion: Sonia Cavazzi, 19, from Sucy-en-Brie, near Paris, in training yesterday for the 1992 grand prix Subbuteo (table football) championship in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, tomorrow. She will be the only woman among 100 competitors

Serbs execute Muslim civilians in Bosnian camps, Britain confirms

Continued from page 1

Karadzic wrote to the Liberal Democrat leader denying that any camps exist "Bosnian-Serb territories", and in inviting him to "visit any town, village or area where you believe you will find a concentration camp or civilian prisoners". Dr Karadzic added: "To urge your own nation into a military conflict before getting the fullest picture of the whole situation verges on the irresponsible."

In his letter to Mr Ashdown, the prime minister, who believes the international community would not countenance a military solution, told Mr Ashdown that the government had studied "and continue to study the

force as you propose without disproportionate risk to the lives of civilians and our armed forces." The day after Lady Thatcher demanded that weapons and military help should be sent to Bosnia to prevent "an even greater catastrophe", Mr Major said that the priority must remain humanitarian help for the victims of the conflict.

The prime minister, who believes the international community would not countenance a military solution, told Mr Ashdown that the government had studied "and continue to study the

military implications. Air power would be unlikely to be enough given the guerrilla nature of the fighting, the terrain and the sort of weapons being used. It would also put the civilian population at risk."

Mr Major displayed his obvious irritation at allegations that Britain is not doing enough. He told Mr Ashdown: "You allege that Britain is failing to show leadership over this issue. Within one month of taking over the EC presidency, Douglas Hurd (the foreign secretary) has visited the region; peace

talks with the parties have been held in London; the RAF have helped take 6,000 tonnes of aid into Sarajevo as part of the UN airift."

Mr Major added that there is no military action yesterday. He told Mr Ashdown: "You allege that Britain is failing to show leadership over this issue. Within one month of taking over the EC presidency, Douglas Hurd (the foreign secretary) has visited the region; peace

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talk



FRIDAY AUGUST 7 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL



The Institute of Chartered Accountants may introduce tough measures to discipline accountancy firms and individual partners Page 17 and 19

REFORMING

The Morse report recommendations on changes at Lloyd's will not be fully implemented until 1995 Page 17

STAKE OUT



Turnover of shares in Mirror Group Newspapers soared again, indicating that someone has built up a sizable stake Stock Market, page 18

ERODED

Property provisions helped push insurer pre-tax profits at Kleinwort Benson down 14 per cent to £12.3 million Tempus, page 18

TOMORROW



Lawrence Banks, who masterminded Robert Fleming's role as global co-ordinator in the Wellcome frost, nearly missed a career in merchant banking

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8080 (-0.0090)
German mark 2.8275 (-0.0020)
Exchange index 91.8 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 177.42 (-17.3)
FT-SE 100 2377.6 (-15.2)
New York Dow Jones 3349.74 (-15.40)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 15926.44 (-57.30)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10%+10%
3-month eligible bills: 9%+9%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 5%+6%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.17-3.18%
30-year bonds: 105%+105%*

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.9100 \$ 1.9080
£ 0.9297 \$ 0.9186*
£ 2.5425 \$ 2.5403
£ 1.9744 \$ 1.9744
\$ 1.0644 £ 0.918
ECU 0.720672 \$ 0.720672
£ 0.720672 \$ 0.720672

GOLD

London Fixing: \$1349.25 PM \$1348.60
Close \$148.20-\$48.70
New York
Comex \$147.75-\$48.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$19.65/bbl (\$19.70)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Chairman admits mistakes in lending as property slump means record £1bn provisions

Bad debts drag Barclays profit down to £51m

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS, Britain's leading high street bank, reported a collapse in pre-tax profit to just £51 million in the first half of the year after a succession of property company failures forced it to make record bad debt provisions of £1.07 billion.

The bank's profits plunged by 87 per cent, despite a record operating profit due to tight cost control and strong income growth. The slump makes Barclays the least profitable of the big five banks, in complete contrast to a year ago when it was still top of the league.

Sir John Quinton, the chairman, said the results were very disappointing. He blamed the severity of recession, the fall in property values and the continuing stream of business failures.

He also admitted that the bank had made lending mis-

takes in the early days of the recession. He said: "There was some bad lending. We concentrated on larger property companies after 1988 which seemed very sound. But as the recession has gone on, even these have suffered and bad debts have begun to emerge in the last six months."

He added later that with hindsight the bank should not have made up to 40 per cent of the loans that it agreed in the late eighties.

Andrew Buzon, due to succeed Sir John as chairman next year, said the bank had failed to produce value for shareholders. "But we have an excellent portfolio of businesses, which I believe will produce better returns in future," he said.

Barclays was a big lender to Mountbatten and Olympia & York, and is leading the attempted rescue of Heron.

The property and motors group, Peter Wood, the bank's finance director, revealed that £200 million of the provisions related to only five businesses. The bank's total portfolio of bad debts had reached £5.5 billion.

Despite the slump, Barclays maintained its interim dividend at 9.15p, which drained £206 million from reserves.

This cheered the City, which had feared a cut. Sir John said the bank was justified. "We have underlying strengths, including the improvement in operating profit, the impact of cost controls and the strength of our balance sheet."

The bank's figures were dominated by the provisions, £273 million higher than a year ago. More than a third was set aside for larger companies, while provisions to retail customers remained steady at £226 million. Sir John said the bank was still making provisions of more than £1 million a day for failed small business customers.

In contrast to the bad debts, by far the worst among the banks, Barclays managed to expand its operating profits by 16 per cent to £1.17 billion. Much of this came from increased commission fees and cost control. During the half year, the bank spent £20 million on redundancies and branch closures. The bank shed 2,300 staff and closed 67 branches, and is planning further cuts in the rest of the year.

As a result, he refused to reassure the City that the bank would maintain its final dividend.

"In the present uncertain economic conditions it is far

unforeseen. The economies of many other countries where we operate are also weak and it is not possible to predict with any certainty when any recovery will take place."

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ICA targets firms in accountancy discipline review

By JON ASHWORTH

TOUGH powers to discipline accountancy firms are being proposed as part of an overhaul by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

The scope of disciplinary procedures could be widened to include firms as well as individual partners in a drive to make firms more accountable to clients. Disciplinary hearings may be opened to outside observers under plans put to the institute's council this week.

At present, when a complaint is received against a firm, the institute, with some exceptions, has to identify an individual member as being responsible for the alleged default. The ICA believes this is unrealistic for those complaints where the default was due to a corporate decision. It proposes to make firms liable

for poor workmanship and other instances where professional conduct falls short of required standards.

Elwyn Ellidge, senior partner of Ernst & Young and chairman of an ICA working party on disciplinary matters, said changes to the rules would keep the ICA up to date.

"When clients have gone to a firm of chartered accountants and believe they have been treated badly, they tend to complain against the firm, not the engagement partner, and are surprised when the institute tells them they cannot do so. In this, they are probably more in tune with reality than are the present bylaws."

The changes, if implemented, will not affect cases such as that of Richard Stone of Coopers & Lybrand and Michael Jordan of Cork Giulia, who are the subject of a

disciplinary hearing by the institute. Complaints relating to insolvency matters will always focus on the individuals concerned. The proposals are being opened to consultation.

Any bylaw changes agreed will be put to the membership in June 1993. Discussion is continuing on whether disciplinary hearings such as those involving Mr Stone and Mr Jordan should be opened to the public.

In a separate move, the ICA has increased pressure on the government to abolish compulsory audit for very small companies. An ICA working party has suggested that companies below the £36,600 turnover threshold for compulsory VAT registration should drop out of the audit net altogether. Companies with turnover of up to £300,000 should be allowed to opt out of an audit, provided such a move has the unanimous support of directors. The matter would be put to the vote each year.

In place of an audit, companies would be allowed to submit a "compilation report" on preparation of the accounts furnished by an accountant.

Directors would have to sign a statement acknowledging their responsibilities for the accounts. Scrapping the statutory audit could save small companies between 20 and 55 per cent of the cost of overall accountants fees.

Exceptions to the rule would include small firms of financial advisers, which have to submit to an audit as part of the vetting process required under the Financial Services Act 1986.

The three outward fares targeted were from Birmingham to Paris, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt at £185, £172 and £209 for standard business returns. Although less now (£183, £171 and £207 respectively), a spokeswoman said the commission's investigation "had nothing to do with" BA's new fare structure. She was concerned that the civil aviation authority, which referred the BA fares to Brussels, was not referring fares set by rivals to such an extent.

The EC ruled that seven fares charged by Lufthansa, Alitalia and Iberia could not be used as the basis of future price increases. Most of these flights were also to British airports.

Comment, page 19

BA accuses Brussels of double standards

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH Airways yesterday accused the European Commission of double standards in over-scrutinising its air fares while ignoring the government support that allows its rivals to run cheaper tariffs.

In the EC's Official Journal, Karel van Miert, transport commissioner, targets BA as the biggest offender in over-charging on routes within the Community.

The commission has listed 11 BA flights into Britain and three outward services whose business-class fares are not justified by operating costs or competitive conditions. Brussels has ruled that BA cannot use the tariffs, which were for last summer, as the basis of future fare structures.

BA spokeswoman yesterday said the airline had completely revised its European fare structure since 1991, but the EC seemed to be paying little attention to practices at its largely state-owned European rivals. "We've been penalised for efficiency," said one BA

executive. "The EC has been

expressing dismay in the past two months as Brussels allowed state subsidies to Air France and Iberia of £128 million and \$62 million respectively. The EC referred to the Air France cash as "a normal financial transaction". In both cases the cash was approved by Mr van Miert.

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General Motors improves but still remains in the red

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

GENERAL Motors, the world's largest car maker and owner of Vauxhall and Opel, remained in the red in the second quarter of this year, but put in its best quarterly performance since 1991.

Depressing profits was a \$749 million special charge to pay for 9,000 job cuts at its electronics division that pushed second quarter losses to \$357 million, against a loss of \$784 million for the same period a year ago.

Without that special charge GM continued in the black with a \$392 million profit, up from an \$808 million loss last year and double the profits made in the first half.

But Mr Robert Stempel, GM's chairman, said: "Sustaining the rate of progress we experienced in the first half of this year, however, appears to

be extremely challenging."

He said the second half of the year could prove difficult in view of uncertainties related to the pace of the northern American economic recovery and a slowdown in some key European markets.

Last year GM lost almost \$10 billion on its American car operations, but has seen a 5 per cent rise in American vehicle sales and a 1 per cent increase in second quarter market share to 36.9 per cent.

Worldwide car and truck sales climbed 6 per cent to just over two million but overseas car and truck sales fell 3 per cent to 670,500.

Without special redundancy charges, profits for the half year came out at \$572 million against a \$218 million loss on total revenue, 11 per cent higher at \$67.2 billion. The

company said.

IBM set to announce \$7bn PC division

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL Business Machines (IBM) is believed to be set to announce the formation of a new personal computer division, which would have sales of \$7 billion and rank as the world's largest.

The move would be the first tangible evidence of IBM's strategy to form itself into six smaller parts that could respond much more rapidly to changes in the market place.

Shares of IBM, whose chairman is John Akers, were down again yesterday at \$90, off more than \$4 in two days after executives forecast little



Akers: new division

or no growth this year in its core business — mainframe computers. One analyst cut his forecast for IBM's full year

profit figures by 15 per cent. IBM will cut at least 32,000 staff this year, bringing the total dismissed since 1986 to 92,000.

A separate PC division would streamline all business functions under one group. Its personal computers are currently developed and made by IBM, but marketing decisions are handled on a geographical basis and distribution by a separate part of IBM.

The company will not comment on the plan, but industry sources say James Cannavino, head of personal systems, got the go-ahead to reform the division some time ago and the company said job cuts will be cost it a further \$1.2 billion.

within the next two weeks. Analysts are uncertain just what profit prospects would be for a separate PC division amid the most fierce price war in PC history.

It is understood that IBM has plans to float shares of the division on Wall Street after three years.

Fresh doubts over the company's profit prospects emerged last month despite a surge in earnings for April, May and June from \$126 million to \$714 million. Gross profits from its hardware sales, which account for half IBM's revenue, actually fell and the company said job cuts will cost it a further \$1.2 billion.

Some people learn best by listening, others by seeing, others through 'hands on' experience. Accelerated Learning combines all three, so the course is guaranteed to be right for you.

You hear your new language in a series of 12 entertaining radio plays, in short easy-to-absorb sentences. You follow the script with the vocabulary pictorialised in unique 'Memory Maps'. The stories and these pictures build vivid mental images that make recalling the language easy and natural.

Then you experience the language through a series of enjoyable games and activities. These include the Name Game, which enables you to understand literally hundreds of words from the very first day.

The combination ensures that Accelerated Learning activates the learning power of your whole brain. Not just your analytical left brain—but your more imaginative, visual and faster working right brain.

Closing Prices Page 21

RISSES:
Barclays 334p (+10p)
Elys (Wimblin) 670p (+10p)
BOC 601p (+17p)
Liberty Life 841p (+20p)
FALLS:
Daaen 815p (-15p)
Legal & General 313p (-12p)
Com Union 435p (-10p)
Weir 438p (-10p)
Kodak Group Sp d/p (385) 65p (-10p)
Kodak Int'l d/p (100) 8p
ADT 428p (-12p)

Watson & Phil 240p (-15p)
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BOC blows cold on outlook as trading splutters

BOC Group always makes great play of currency movements and their impact on profits, but it is the company's implied warning that business conditions look like staying tough — if not becoming tougher — that is concerning the minds of analysts.

Nine months pre-tax profits of £250.9 million, showing another 9.6 per cent advance, are not to be sneezed at, and under the group's early dividend alert policy, shareholders know this year's total dividend will be lifted from 20.4p to 22p a share.

But what gains were made on the currency front in the first six months to end-March were all but undone in the April to June quarter, and since the reporting date, the exchanges have worked further against BOC.

Industrial gas profits moved ahead despite weak economies, and BOC benefited from loss elimination at what it still retains (for the moment) of its home health-care business in America.

But there is a disturbing trend within the vacuum technology division and, after a divisional operating profits setback from £19.9 million to £12 million in the nine months, further profits weakness in the final quarter looks likely.

Deferred spending on capital plant and limited activity in construction-related industries, which affects glass-tinting operations, are not problems easily solved.

BOC continues, meanwhile, to chip away at its cost base, though the actual charge for redundancies — and the expected savings therefrom — are not being disclosed until the year-end.

The group looks well placed to ride out the still dark economic days ahead, and it should enjoy a sharp profits bounce once worldwide conditions are more robust.

But 1992 profit estimates have been lowered as the year has unfolded, and on hopes of £345 million (£310.1 million)



Facing a cash drain: Roy Roberts of Simon Engineering

pre-tax for the year ending September, the shares, on 12.8 times prospective earnings, look fairly valued.

Simon Engineering

WASTE water treatment and environmental consultancy are enviably green and fast-growing businesses, but as Simon Engineering has

found, it is hard to make a great deal of money without the necessary critical mass. Governments and potential clients may give lip service to environmental issues, but they are not always the first priority in recessionary times.

So the decision by Simon, which has been emphasising its access platform and geo-physical services businesses, to sell its water and environmental division, looks wise, however it may have been

forced by circumstances. The group, led by Roy Roberts, faces a continuing drain on cash and an uncertain future, as the recession compounds the humpy cash flow that is the bane of so many process engineers. Final results will depend heavily on what pump-priming cash payments from new contracts can be taken on board before the year-end.

Pre-tax profits fell from £10.4 million to £6.1 million in the first half to end-June. A same-again interim dividend of 5p is not covered, throwing doubt on the maintenance of the final payment this year despite the anticipated seasonal weighting of profits towards the second half.

Simon shares, above 53 a year ago, have fallen hard this summer as the market has taken this on board. Slightly better-than-expected figures yesterday prompted a 4p rise

to 185p, although Ian Lowe at Smith New Court is still looking for £16.9 million this year and a dividend cut from 15.7p to 9.5p. This would put the shares on a prospective multiple of 14.7, while trimming the yield from 11.3 to 6.8p. High enough for now.

Kleinwort Benson

WHEN it comes to banking provisions, Kleinwort Benson's problems barely register alongside those of Barclays and its clearing bank ilk. And yet the merchant bank's diminishing corporate loan book continues to be a thorn in its side, as it has since the start of the recession.

Admittedly, the net banking provision after recoveries was only £2 million in the first half, but that was unrealistically small, say some analysts, who expect higher provisions in the second half, depressing full-year figures. A further £5.5 million was set aside to cover surplus office space after falling staff numbers and reorganisation. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June fell 14 per cent to £21.3 million and the interim dividend is held at 5.3p.

With a BNP merger deal seemingly as far away as ever, and the City unable to throw off its depression, prospects for Kleinwort look unexciting. Forecasts of full-year profits depend on the level of loan provisioning in the second half. The market range is an unusually wide, £35 million to £48 million, for earnings of 18p to 24p. On yesterday's share price, up 2p to 242p, that values the shares at between 10 and 13 times prospective earnings. Kleinwort's strong balance sheet means the dividend is not threatened even if the most pessimistic earnings expectations are met. The resulting 9 per cent yield and the deep discount to assets are probably sufficient to clinch the case for keeping the shares.

Mirror Group finished 1p cheaper at 73p, with a total of 15 million shares changing hands. The shares returned from suspension last month at 51p and have since climbed steadily amid persistent talk of stake-building.

Mirror Group finished 1p cheaper at 73p, with a total of 15 million shares changing hands. The shares returned from suspension last month at 51p and have since climbed steadily amid persistent talk of stake-building.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market spent a volatile session, with the FT-SE 100 index tumbling 32 points at one stage, before halving the deficit to close 15.2 points lower at 2,377.6 after the Bundesbank decided to leave German interest rates unchanged. Turnover remained thin, with only 497 million shares traded.

The market reached its low point in the wake of the gloomy trading news from BP, showing the quarterly dividend halved and exceptional charges of £1 billion. The price fell 10p to 196.1p. Dealers said that American buying of BP's shares had prevented the price falling

MGN turnover suggests more stake-building

TURNOVER in the shares in Mirror Group Newspapers soared as a large line of stock went through the market, suggesting that someone other than Independent Newspapers, the Irish newspaper publisher headed by Tony O'Reilly, has been building up a sizable holding in the group.

A line of 6.8 million shares, or 1 1/2 per cent of the issued capital, passed through the market at about the 71 1/4p level. The shares are believed to have formed part of a "cash and new operation", enabling the owner to sell the shares at a small discount to the ruling price, before buying them back at a small premium for the new account, which begins on Monday. This enables the investor to retain the cash and gives him three weeks' grace before settling his account.

It emerged last week that Independent Newspapers had built up a stake of 5.5 million shares, or 1.3 per cent. The Mirror Group suspects that other stakes in its shares have been built up, but has so far been unable to identify the ultimate owners.

The bank blamed the recession. There are fears that the final dividend will be cut.

There were also losses for

Lloyd's Bank, 4p to 38.1p,

HSBC, 3p to 33.2p and National Westminster, 5p to

310p. Standard Chartered,

which reported a downturn in

profits on Wednesday, fell 7p to

413p.

Cable & Wireless fell 16p to

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dividend will be cut.

Barclays rues its days of optimism

Something has gone horribly wrong when one of the world's leading banks is barely profitable. Until yesterday Barclays seemed to be riding out the recession with relative ease. The bank's size, retail strength and financial power suggested it could withstand the bad debt provisions sweeping the industry and still produce profits to maintain its dividend and fund future growth. That cosy assumption was jolted in the first half of this year when Barclays' lame ducks came home to roost. A succession of big property groups like Olympia & York, Mounteigh and Heron collapsed or begged for mercy from their creditors, and Barclays was always there to pick up a bill.

Andrew Buxton, who steps up from managing director to the chairmanship in the new year, blames the £1.07 billion bad debt provision on the recession. The excuse does not entirely hold water, since provisions at Lloyds and Midland are already failing. He would do better to consider the bank's lending policy. In the late eighties, Barclays was still expanding its property lending, while others already had severe misgivings about their exposure. Barclays was happy to do business with the largest and apparently secure developers and used the proceeds of a £923 million rights issue in 1988 to fund aggressive expansion of its loan book.

Barclays' directors may not have seen it that way, but they took a gamble on the future of the economy. They bet the bank that the recession would be short enough and shallow enough for the large property businesses to trade through. Their error is written large across yesterday's interim figures, which show that £200 million has been needed to plug the hole left by just five borrowers. Mr Buxton has promised to improve credit quality and risk management, but the changes will take time to work through. There will be more explosions in Barclays' balance sheet before the recession is through.

Barclays' bottom line blues did not, however, unnerve the City, where the strong growth in operating profits was taken as evidence that the bank would maintain its dividend. Sir John Quinton, the outgoing chairman, remains non-committal. The recession has too long to run and many of the bank's customers are too close to the brink for him to be more reassuring.

Professional fouls

Chartered accountants are taking another step in their long road from being merely professional bodies to becoming modern regulators. The English Institute has finally proposed that firms of accountants rather than just individual members can be subject to discipline over alleged breaches of professional conduct rules. In an industry now dominated by a few big firms with at least some central management, this is long overdue. It is not entirely new. For the past couple of years, firms can, and have, been fined heavily in high-profile public interest cases — often arising from criticism from trade department inspectors — that are dealt with in the profession's joint disciplinary system. They can also be liable where the institute has a statutory regulator's role in investment business and, most recently, formal audits. Oddly, regulation of insolvency work takes no action against firms, since receivers and administrators are still theoretically appointed as individuals.

The joint disciplinary system is itself being shaken up. Reforms to speed actions through use of a prosecuting attorney are on their way. As the institute's own disciplinary hearings of the Jordant and Stone case shows, there is a long still a long way to go if justice is to be done expeditiously, and be seen to be done. Opening hearings to public scrutiny looks impractical for tribunals lacking full legal privilege and relying on informal help from other regulators. Reports of cases and reasons for judgments need to be more informative if complainants are not to suspect that big firms cover up for each other.

The ill-fated share sale and rights issue of five years ago lie at the heart of the oil giant's present tribulations, writes George Sivell

How do you tell the difference between a Shell man and a BP man? The Shell man cannot find oil and the BP man cannot sell it. Much has happened to BP since that joke went the rounds in the seventies but yesterday's results highlight brutal differences in the running of Britain's big oil twins.

Shell has quietly assembled an enviable portfolio of assets around the world. BP has been hitting the headlines with alarming regularity for all the wrong reasons. The company has carried through a huge scaling-back of world operations, to compensate for the fall in oil prices, and a top-level management shake-up; there is also a heavy debt burden. Now, the first dividend cut since the 1967 six-day war has been announced.

One of Britain's more adventurous oil explorers commented last week that the stock market had become so tough on him and his peers that they were judged solely on dividend performance and not on their beloved assets. For the two majors, the dividend has always been important, representing a significant part of cash flow for many big investing institutions. In these strained times, it is crucial to institutional cash flow.

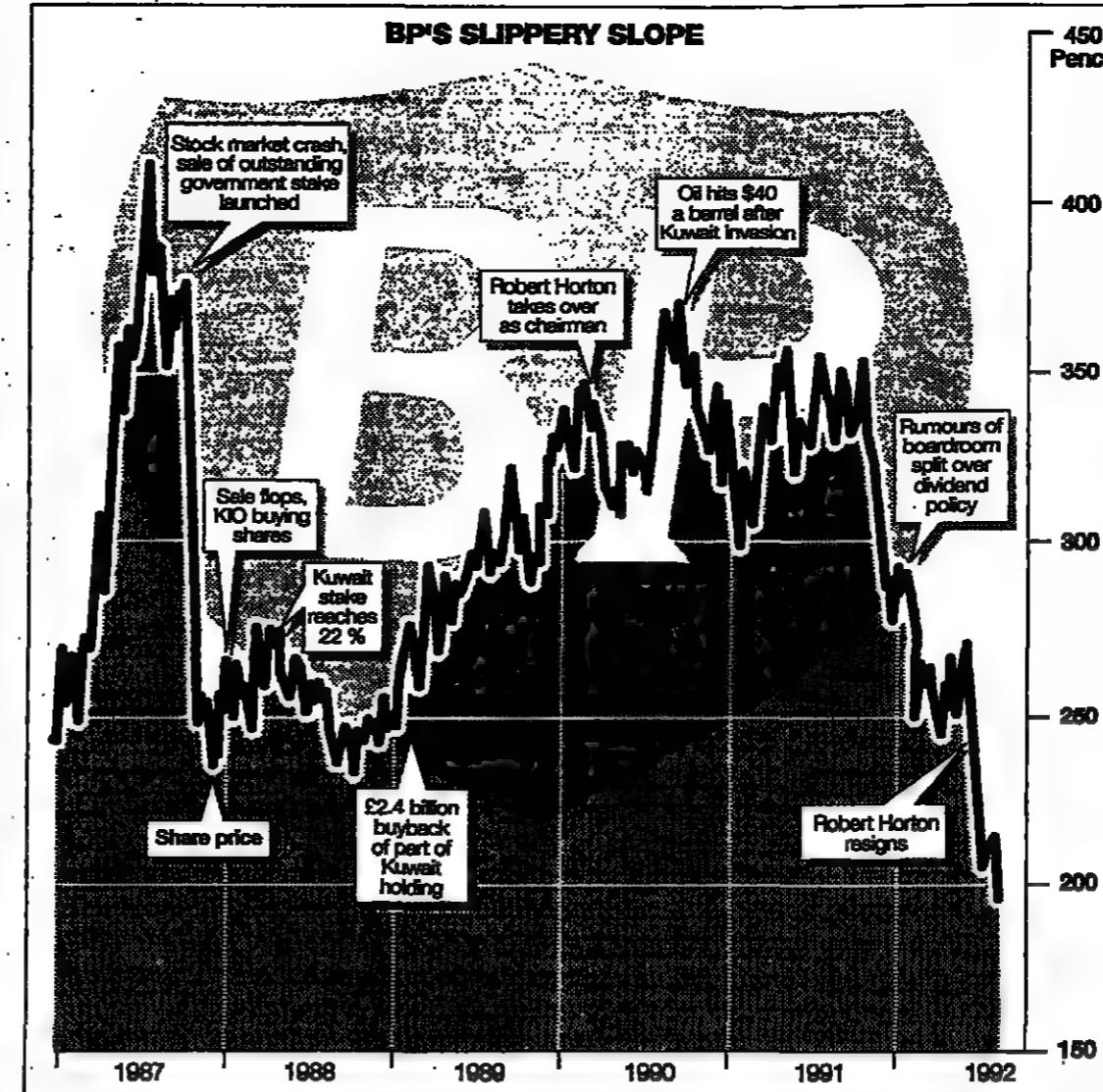
The BP board appreciates this only too well and yesterday went to some lengths to explain that the halving of its quarterly payout to 2.1p was part of a balancing act between various needs: to satisfy shareholders, to pay off debts, to maximise cash flow and to reduce capital expenditure — but not as much as to restrict replacement of oil reserves.

BP shares yesterday fell 10p to 19p. Assuming that the dividend continues at the quarterly level of 2.1p for the rest of the year, they will yield an income of 7.1 per cent, well ahead of Shell's expected 6.2 per cent. That is a measure of the risk the market attaches to holding BP shares.

The painful treatment that BP's new top team has accelerated has already had some effect on the shares. The cash drain was stemmed from £154 million in the first quarter to £105 million in the second. The dividend cut will save £604 million over a full year, including £148 million of advance corporation tax.

From the moment Robert Horton resigned the chair on June 25, the market has speculated on a cut in dividends for the group's half a million shareholders and a hastening of nationalisation plans. BP shares had been a generally weak market since April 1991, when they reached 35p. At that point, the impact of the Gulf war was keeping oil prices above \$20 a barrel and cash flow relatively healthy. When Mr Horton went, they were 24p but have turned since.

BP paid an increased but uncovered dividend for 1991 against the background of a net cash outflow of £1.1 billion. Some institutional inves-



tors were, apparently, disappointed that the dividend increase had not matched inflation, as Mr Horton had hoped it would. When the full-year results were announced, BP described the quarterly dividend as a flexible signalling process. The dividend would be cut only in the event of *force majeure*, the City was told.

Yesterday, David Simon, the chief executive, said *force majeure* had indeed occurred. "None of us expected external market circumstances to continue as long, or be as hard, as they have been." Asked whether Mr Horton was to carry the can for this, Lord Ashburton, a long-standing non-executive director at BP, said Mr Horton's departure had been because of management style, not dividend policy. It was indicated that the rationalisation was a speeding up of previous plans, not something started after Mr Horton left.

BP has traditionally been more exposed than Shell to the vagaries of the oil price, another crucial link with the Horton departure. From taking up the chairmanship in March 1990, Mr Horton believed, in an oil price of \$25 a barrel for the mid-1990s. He expressed this faith strongly in public.

BP toned this forecast down to between \$18 and \$21 a barrel after Mr Horton's resignation. Yesterday, Mr Simon said the company was basing its sums on a conservative \$18 a barrel. Shell, on the other hand, has stuck to a forecast of \$18 a barrel throughout.

This difference of view over future oil prices was highly significant for policy. Under Mr Horton, BP sold safe but unexciting producing assets and invested heavily in exploration and development in new oil areas, where a high oil price could raise potential rewards to match risk.

In the exploration and production divisions, £49 million will go on redundancy programmes in Britain and America and £126 million on writing off the values of North Sea oil rigs now deemed surplus to requirements and leases unlikely to be drilled.

Among refining and marketing interests, £244 million will be spent on redundancies, reflecting huge restructuring in Europe and America.

About £107 million has been set aside to cover expected disposals in America. In chemicals, £64 million is to be spent on redundancies and £121 million to cover the writedown of American assets.

The cost reduction programme, which aims to save £400 million of annual running costs by 1994, is Mr Horton's. Capital expenditure is to be cut to \$5 billion in 1993 and 1994 from \$6.5 billion now and \$8 billion in 1991, again no change on what Mr Horton predicted for 1992.

The new team of Lord Ashburton and David Simon will, in addition,

take more drastic steps to improve the group's balance sheet. Mr Simon, the much more cautious new chief executive, has made it clear he will accelerate BP's debt reduction programme by cutting capital spending and disposing of assets. He also took some pains to deny that BP was planning another rights issue.

BP now has \$16 billion of debt and the figure could rise to \$17 billion by the year-end. This was described yesterday as being at the prudent limit. The aim is to reduce debts by \$1 billion a year. Annualised cost savings of \$1 billion a year are to be sought.

The disposal programme for this year and 1993 will aim to raise between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion from the marketing, chemicals and nutrition divisions. This had been foreshadowed already. Mr Simon said BP had taken in \$650 million from disposals so far this year and was in negotiations that could see the target safely net.

BP stated a target replacement cost net income, after stripping out oil stock profits or losses, of \$2 billion a year, enough to cover the newly diminished dividend two or three times. The company thinks it will start to generate cash again some time during 1993 and will show cash inflow for the year as a whole.

The tax position has been weakened by North Sea disposals. BP recently even tried to save £10 million of advance corporation tax by asking the government if it would be possible to offer shareholders shares in Bröit, taken over for £2.5 billion in 1988. Bröit had tax losses to offset against ACT; BP does not.

Many of BP's debt and cash-flow problems can be traced back to the £2.4 billion buy-back of shares from Kuwait. In the wake of the disastrous government share sale of 1987, which the Treasury insisted on pursuing just after the stock market crash, Kuwait snapped up a 22 per cent stake in BP that City underwriters were only too glad to sell. The oil company had made a right issue at the same time as the state share sale. The government, bolstered by the monopolies commission, insisted that the Kuwaiti stake be cut.

BP ended up buying part of it in January 1989 for £2.4 billion, reducing the stake from 21.6 per cent to the 9.9 per cent allowed and giving the Kuwait Investment Office a £350 million profit for its pains. Although BP said it covered the purchase with the sale of BP minerals to RTZ for a similar sum, the reduction of share capital was greater than the assets sold. Gearing rose from 37 per cent to 42 per cent of debt over debt plus equity, against a target of 30 per cent at the time.

In truth, BP was in no position to mount such an ambitious deal. It had recently spent £2.5 billion to take over Bröit and \$7.8 billion to buy the 45 per cent minority shareholdings in Standard Oil of Ohio, its American arm.

Prior to the Gulf war, the British government had reckoned that, since Kuwait was an Opec member with huge oil reserves, its interests collided with those of BP. In the wake of that war, BP is in a modest way, helping Kuwait to rebuild its shattered fortunes and will soon send 15 or 20 engineers to Kuwait.

Its own shattered fortunes must also be rebuilt, like Kuwait's.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A unique oyster source

THE start of the oyster season on September 1 will provide an unusual publicity opening for the City airport. For the first time, native English oysters will be flown by Cross Air from the airport to Zurich for the prestigious first-day-of-the-season lunch at the Hummer oyster bar. The oysters are from Poole in Dorset and, as the only oysters being especially flown in, les Dorses d'Angleterre, as they are being called, have won star billing on the menu, supplanting even the gourmet *fines de bœuf*. David Davies, who runs Sea Harvest in Poole, the company providing the oysters, says Dorset is fast replacing Whitstable and Colchester as the centre for UK oysters and claims the flavour is "second to none". He will accompany them on their journey. "I'll be taking them out of our tanks on the morning of August 31 and catching a plane at 10am. They will be on the table within 36 hours," he says. He is keen to gain markets in Europe, and from September will fly oysters from the City airport to Zurich every week for five months.



however, Sir John Quidton, chairman of Barclays, who yesterday reported his bank's terrible half-year results, but plain John Quinton, senior general manager of Barclays, almost exactly ten years ago as reported in The Times on August 6, 1982. Plus, change!

Not fair enough

THE insurance salesman who cold-called an Office of Fair Trading press officer and tried to persuade her to invest took on more than he realised this week. The OFT last month published two independent and very critical reports on the way such investments are sold and is seeking views on how much information about com-

mission and company expenses should be given to investors. Any personal experience of sales techniques will no doubt be put to good use.

Tusk tusk

NOBODY should be under any illusions that Robin Woodhead, the new chief executive of London Fox, the troubled fitters and options exchange, is just another grey City broker. The announcement of his appointment this week has prompted memories of his elephant-hunting days, which have earned him a reputation for an adventurous streak. Woodhead, 42, attracted the attention of the City Diary two summers ago when he was attacked by a rogue elephant in the Chobe game reserve in Botswana. He was travelling with two friends in a Land Rover when the elephant charged out of the bush and rammed the vehicle, knocking it over and snapping a tusk in its rage. The ordeal left Woodhead, who spent part of his childhood in Rhodesia, nursing cuts and bruises — and with a three-foot tusk to show for it. Since stepping down last year as chief executive of National Investment Group, a network of regional stockbrokers, he has been travelling in America, Africa and the South Pacific. Barring further incidents, he takes up his new post in October.

DEBRA ISAAC

From Mr Jonathan Veale

Sir, At last, an economic miracle — with biological overtones. ICI is to cut itself in half and become two dynamic worms, replacing the lethargic one we have known so long. And the segments' old "brain" has a message for the beleaguered Chancellor: define our currency and British industry and ICI will conquer world markets afresh.

Total bunkum. Step forward Midland Bank still a limpless invertebrate, but flush with success, having only written off a mere £330 million of discovered bad

debt. Its message: cut interest rates by 3 per cent, reduce the habit of saving and spend, our way back to prosperity. More absurd bunkum. If these gentlemen genuinely reflect the views of the boards they represent in believing the solution to our problems is so simple, their shareholders should immediately be sent an official health warning: Investing here can damage your pocket — heavy losses imminent.

ICI and Midland should spare us their economic nostrums. ICI's message: cut interest rates by 3 per cent, reduce the habit of saving and spend, our way back to prosperity. More absurd bunkum. If these gentlemen genuinely reflect the views of the boards they represent in believing the solution to our problems is so simple, their shareholders should immediately be sent an official health warning: Investing here can damage your pocket — heavy losses imminent.

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Wise words given to businesswomen

By BRIAN COLLETT

A FREE service to help women who are going into business for the first time, as well as returners, has been started by the Norwich Enterprise Agency Trust (Neat).

The first programme of the initiative, called Women to Self-Employment, or Wise, has more than 40 training sessions and events, including business planning, bookkeeping and marketing workshops. It will run until next March.

Funding of £25,000 has come from BT, the Rural Development Commission and the Norfolk and Waveney Training and Enterprise Council. National Westminster Bank has provided the organiser, Christine Breamley, a returner who previously handled small business lending in central London NatWest branches.

The trust, which was formed in 1981 to give free advice to new businesses, is solving one problem for women by holding sessions during school hours and offering child care. Jane Bradford, chief of NatWest's small business services, says: "Returners want to feel there is recognition of their circumstances."

Although the help is being geared to women's needs, Mrs Bradford points out: "Women are not looking for special treatment. They do not want to be patronised."

Women run 25 per cent of existing small businesses but 33 per cent of new businesses are now

started by women. About 30 per cent of the trust's clients are female.

Some women start businesses in areas where they have little experience. Mrs Bradford says: "This can work in women's favour. They are more prepared to plan in detail, hence the importance of the training. From our viewpoint, because they have thought things out, their businesses tend to be more stable and have a better chance of survival. The bank does not want to miss this part of the business market."

Among other issues, Wise will tackle fear of dealing with banks. Even if they do not fear banks, many women have restricted access to capital and the programme will look for the most suitable funding sources.

□ **Near-Wise:** 0603 613023.

MR FRIDAY

Taking the labour out of love

By RODNEY HOBSON

A LABOUR of love gave Linda Magistris the idea for her own business. She had a wonderful wedding last September, which was hardly surprising given the amount of work she put into it.

She says: "I spent months and months on the telephone, trying to find what I wanted. I listened to 20 pianists and visited 30 caterers. I heard I don't know how many bands. I saw the worst wedding cars in the world."

Research for her own wedding convinced Mrs Magistris that there was an enormous gap to be filled by a consultant willing to organise other people's nuptials.

"It takes an enormous amount of time and effort if you want something a bit different. Although people generally like to stick to tradition at a wedding, they still want it to be special."

Weddings are becoming bigger, she says, and a £7,000 affair is not unusual. Couples are taking greater control over their special day, often paying the expenses themselves, with a meal during the day and a disco at night. Some start married life with an overdraft after paying for the celebrations. The bride's parents are no longer expected to foot the bill and the best man's role is often kept to speech-maker.

From her flat in Chelsea, Mrs Magistris does the organising for couples who are often both working and do not have the time or the contacts to make the arrangements. "I discovered where to get this car, that cake. I use the services of people who have been in the



Finishing touches: Linda Magistris, a wedding consultant, advising Ann Castle before the big day

business for years or whom I have known previously, so I can guarantee a quality service. If a client suggests a company, I know whether it is good or bad because I have been there. I guarantee everything except the weather."

Potential clients have told her plenty of *horror* stories: a discotheque turning up three hours late, a caterer serving half-frozen food and wedding cars with holes in the roof. The weddings she helps to arrange cut across all religions and

receptions can range from an intimate dinner at a local restaurant to 500 guests at the Dorchester.

"Every wedding is a different occasion and it should be. It depends who walks through the door and what they want. Big, romantic weddings have come back, but there are wacky ones, too. The idea of themed parties has spilled over into weddings. I have seen a bride arrive in a helicopter and depart in a helium balloon."

Mrs Magistris charges a percentage of the cost of the services hired, but she says: "It costs no more than a couple would spend trying to find what they wanted and often setting for second best. People say they can't believe how brave I am taking on the bride's mother but I am extremely well organised and calm."

"Obviously, the whole family is going to get up tight and it is my job to relax them completely. That is what I am there for, to make it an enjoyable time."

ALAN WELLER

Smaller businesses have turned increasingly to factoring as an alternative to raising cash from cautious banks, according to the Association of British Factors and Discounters.

Financing by factoring companies, which put up cash against a business's invoices, reached £7.52 billion in the six months to June this year, up 10 per cent on the first six months of 1991.

Alan Hughes, the association's chairman, said: "Companies are now seeking alternative ways of funding working capital." He maintains factors offer more flexible financing than banks because of the direct link with current sales through invoices.

□ A national network of "one-stop shops" to supply businesses with information and services at the local level has moved a step nearer. Whitehall has set up a steering group to push through the initiative, announced by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary. The first aim will be "pilots" in several parts of Britain.

□ The growing popularity of employee share ownership plans, which offer a tax-efficient way for employees to secure an equity stake in a private business, has led to the formation of a European Centre for Employee Ownership. It is aimed at expanding the movement throughout the EC and forging close links with America's national centre for employee ownership, pioneer of the ESOP movement.

□ **EDITOR DEREK HARRIS**

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INFOTECH TIMES

Bosses learn to handle disaster

Chris Partridge
describes a
computer system
that simulates
emergencies and
trains executives to
keep their heads

A computer system that rehearses the worst industrial accidents that can happen to a company, to train the board in coping with disaster, has been developed by a firm of psychologists.

While a company's board and senior managers struggle to cope with the disaster presented on the screen, the computer reacts to their actions and their statements to the media, just as the outside world might, from causing a slump in the share price to writing powerful leaders criticising the company.

A disaster on the scale of the explosion at Bhopal or the oil spillage from the Exxon Valdez occurs only very rarely, but when it does, a company's senior executives are often so badly prepared that their efforts to handle the problem can actually make it worse.

As a result, the whole future of a company can be endangered, according to Dr Steve Blinkhorn, the managing director of Psychometric Research and Development, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, the company that has devised the system. Increasingly, companies handling high-risk substances, mainly in the petrochemical industry, are putting their directors and top management through regular training programmes to teach them how to cope if the worst should suddenly happen. Usually this is done by professional trainers using actors in the roles of employees, government officials and journalists.

These sessions are expensive and, some critics would say, they may not be very realistic.

The new system, called Crisis, uses nothing more complex than a personal computer with a simple speech synthesis system, but the disasters it presents at the training sessions are highly realistic. Dr Blinkhorn says this is mainly because months of research have



The real thing: beaches are sprayed after the Exxon oil spill. The computer system brings such a problem into the training room

gone into making the emergency credible. When the members of a company's crisis control committee go into a training session, the computer kicks off the process with a "telephone call" assembled from various standard phrases held in the computer's memory and vocalised by the speech synthesis system.

The computer looks at the team's actions and reacts just as the outside world might

The message says, for example, that there has been an accident involving a tanker train carrying a dangerous chemical and that a fire has broken out.

There may have been casualties but no more information is available at the moment. Gradually, more news comes in, by telephone and by "fax", the computer's printer, which also carries a "wire-

information and the employees on the ground need some back-up. Then the computer starts generating "news bulletins", including printed press reports and television news using graphics on screen.

This is where the power of the system becomes apparent, for the previous actions of the trainees have an obvious effect on what the newspaper and broadcasting me-

dia are saying. If the committee decides not to react to press

questions at all, the company will be portrayed as an uncaring, profit-hungry monster deliberately taking chances with the lives of the public to minimise costs. If the committee has issued statements, these may be used against it, quoted out of context and even distorted.

Crisis was developed by Psychometric Research and Development for one of the world's leading makers of PVC. Although PVC is one of the safest

materials available to

day, some of the ingredients that go into it are explosive and toxic, and can generate the deadly poison gas

phosgene if burnt in a certain way.

The simulation is effective, chiefly because the technical basis is sound, Dr Blinkhorn says. The team spent months interviewing engineers at the client company and also at British Rail, Cleveland fire service and many other organi-

sations with wide experience of handling emergencies. Pictures of the client's chemical works were scanned into the computer, as were photographs of real train crashes and chemical fires. All these were combined using computer graphics to create pictures of what a client's factory might look like after an

explosion — pictures that can appear as part of a television news cast, also computer-generated.

The software's ability to change and develop the situation in response to the trainees' actions is provided by modules called agents that can alter the parameters of the main program. One agent, for example, keeps tabs on the death toll, increasing or decreasing the

count in response to the situation, or just randomly. The idea is that this adds to the realism and brings home to the team the importance of good record-keeping.

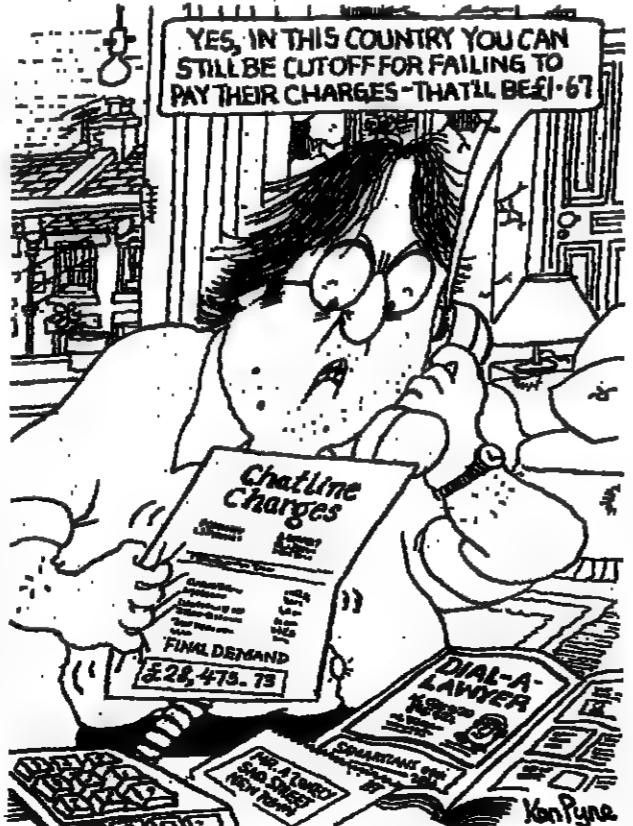
Agents are also responsible for generating the text of newspaper articles and television broadcasts. Using a specially developed language called Schroco, they take the computer code and add the rules of English grammar and ordinary text. Psychometric Research and Development has also developed a language called Mistral for creating multimedia programs, combining computer graphics, audio, video and other media, so that simulations can use the most effective media available.

The PC disaster cost a "five-figure" sum. Dr Blinkhorn says, however, that this cost was minimal as the client originally wanted a system based on interactive video discs, and this would have cost ten times as much to make.

More than 20 people are dead. For the crisis committee, the sky is falling in

Chatlines feel the pinch

Operators of dial-up information services are seeking new ways of attracting callers



If the subscriber disputes the charges. Partly as a result the share of premium-number revenues accounted for by adult entertainment is estimated to have shrunk significantly in the US.

In the UK, too, revenues from adult entertainment services, while still accounting for a higher proportion than in the US, are thought to have halved over the past two years and many in the industry believe that they will fall

further. The way that the industry is considering clearing up its image, and increase revenues at the same time, is by the use of new technologies and international services. The sector wants to be able to follow the lead of the US, where a bewildering array of information and entertainment is becoming accessible through "pay-per-call" exchanges at prices that range from 50 cents (26p) a minute to \$5 (£2.60) a minute.

These services include instant advice from a doctor or lawyer, each at \$3 (£1.67) a minute, or news, stock quotes and weather report from the Wall Street Journal, which charges 95 cents (52p) a minute.

One area of growth in the UK is audiofax, where fax machines are used to access printed information. A pioneer of audiofax in the UK has been DIS Information Services, based in Warrington.

Dial-up information services — those premium-rate telephone numbers typified by an 0898 prefix — have suffered an image problem almost from the outset.

Sedlines, racing up lines and even share price information lines never managed to appear really "proper". Now the industry wants to be able to provide telephone numbers that are even more expensive to try to boost flagging revenues.

Premium rate telephone numbers, which were introduced into Britain in 1986, have been worth up to £150 million in revenues a year. But in the past couple of years the sector's growth has begun to falter.

"We are entering a period of consolidation," says John Symes, sales and marketing director of Telsis, a Farnham-based company which sells the machinery for about a third of 30,000 or so premium-rate lines in use in the UK.

The more down-market entertainment services have been the ones to suffer most. The result is an industry that is looking to ditch its image of "anything for a buck" and to replace it with one of being a provider of an "innovative new high-tech medium".

The move has been hastened by the prospect of official pressure. The freedom of those offering chatlines in the UK, for example, has already been curtailed and many believe that the same may happen to operators of some other services.

In America, for example, new regulations which took effect last January mean that telephone companies can no longer cut off a subscriber's line for failing to pay charges on premium lines. That makes it virtually impossible for service operators to collect money

Wiltshire. The company sells fax-based information services ranging from the Central Statistical Office's information on the retail price index and other economic data to weather charts for pilots and yachtsmen.

The user dials the number of the fax information service required and the machine automatically downloads the required information to his or her fax. The call is charged at the usual British premium rate — 36 pence a minute off peak, 48 pence a minute at all other times. "It's just another way of publishing information," Jeremy Thomas, DIS co-founder and director, says.

In the US, audiofax services are more advanced and range from shortened versions of daily newspapers to airplane departure times. But in the US operators can set a wide variety of prices allowing some services to be charged at \$5 (£2.60) and more a minute.

The price ceiling in the UK has been one which the premium number industry has been lobbying to change for some time now. Another target for lobbying has been the creation of a potential pan-European market for some services.

The UK market still leads Europe in the premium number field, accounting for between 50 and 60 per cent of the overall European market. As well as the UK, however, Ireland, Belgium, Finland, Holland, Norway and Sweden have liberalised the sector. Germany, Italy and Spain also look as though they will soon open their markets.

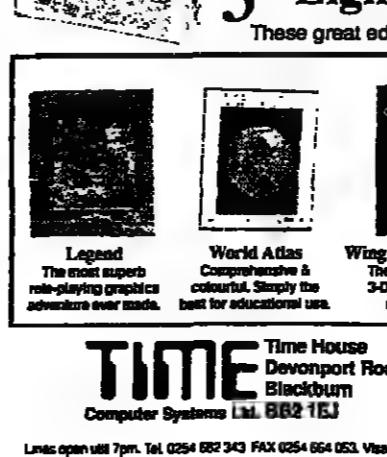
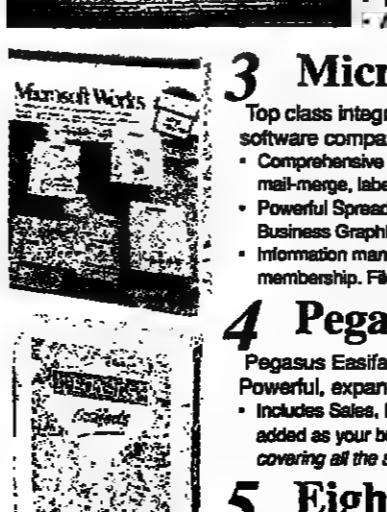
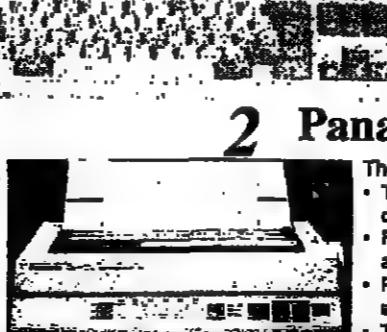
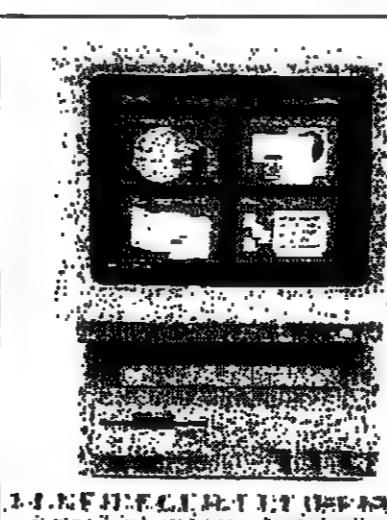
The main problem is that different rules apply in every European country. The European Commission is trying to harmonise the conditions for premium rate numbers throughout member countries.

If successful it believes it can create a market which could be worth over £5 billion by the second half of the decade.

In the meantime, however, the trade is placing its faith in new technologies. As well as audiofax, interactive services, where users can choose the information they want by pressing the numbers on their touchtone phones, are becoming more common.

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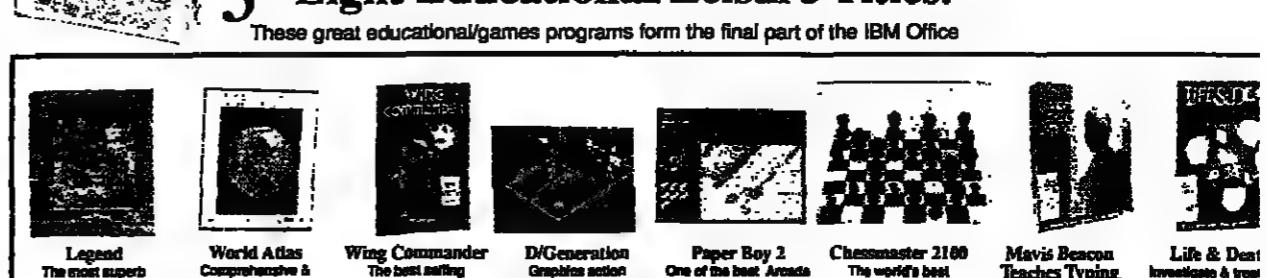
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IBMSA

Cambridge forward moves to Old Trafford

Hughes is the likely victim as United win race for Dublin

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MANCHESTER United yesterday beat Chelsea and Everton in the race to sign Dion Dublin, the Cambridge United forward, for £1 million.

Dublin, aged 23, will travel to Manchester today for a medical and should sign a four-year contract. If everything goes according to plan, he will make his debut against the Republic of Ireland in the Euro 92 tournament on Sunday.

Dublin chose United after being shown around Old Trafford and Reg Smart, the Cambridge chairman, said: "I'm delighted for the lad. I'm sure he's made the right decision because he is going to one of the most famous clubs in the world."

"That's not bad for a player we originally signed on a free transfer and to whom we almost gave a free couple of years ago."

"Both Chelsea and Everton matched our valuation of the player but we have got a fabulous deal from United. They will pay £1 million up front and we will get £300,000 more if Dion becomes an Alan Ball."

Contract stays in doubt

CONCERN about over-exposure for some clubs and underpayment for others have caused the Football League to seek a meeting with ITV over its £5.2 million contract.

With only nine days to go to the start of the 1992-3 season, clubs met yesterday in an attempt to ensure that the live television fees were spread more evenly and the fixture list disrupted as little as possible.

It was agreed that regional arrangements already signed should remain. Including Central Television's £900,000 package of 30 first division matches, switched for live screening on a Sunday for £300,000 each.

Clubs without the television pulling power of those in Central region, where there will be a large number of all-Midland fixtures, feel that a restricted number of network matches, giving a more equal share for all, would be preferable.

Newcastle United and Sunderland, for instance, can claim fees of only up to £8,000 from their smaller Tyne-Tees region, and a similar discrepancy exists elsewhere.

"We have spoken to Trevor East of ITV, today and we have agreed to meet as soon as possible," Lee Walker, the League's controller of broadcasting, said.

GOLF: DOUBLE BOGEY ON DIFFICULT 18TH HOLE DISAPPOINTS LOCAL FAVOURITE IN IRISH SENIOR TOURNAMENT

Dragon lifeless as Scots ease home

By PATRICIA DAVIES

TODAY at Moseley, a bear of the tartan-bedeviled polar variety, takes on John Smith, an older, slightly shabby bear of the common-or-garden variety, to decide which one will lay his paws on the Strooyan Cup.

In other words, Scotland play England in the deciding match of the girls' home internationals. Ireland and Wales, both without a win, contest the wooden spoon.

Unlike John Smith, their mascot, the England players are not old enough to need a rest, duly finished her match against Michelle McGahey with a birdie two at the 11th. Brown won seven holes in a row from the 2nd, all with par, against an opponent who lacked the inspiration to birdie the first.

Fiona Brown, the English champion, whose hectic summer schedule left her in need of a rest, duly finished her match against Michelle McGahey with a birdie two at the 11th. Brown won seven holes in a row from the 2nd, all with par, against an opponent who lacked the inspiration to birdie the first.

At least Tricia Mangan,

who beat Tina Poulton, a gun-chewer from Essex, and Nicola Gorman, who halved with Lorna Nicholson, runner-up to Brown in the English girls' championship, put the common-or-garden variety, to decide which one will lay his paws on the Strooyan Cup.

Wales fared even worse against Scotland. The Scots won the foursomes by 2½ points to a half, with Sarah Rowlands and Sian Jones putting their side on the board when they shared their match against Hilary Monaghan and Kirsty Paterson.

However, the Welsh were still on a mission that even Oswald, their red-dragon mascot, would have found impossible. And so it proved.

RESULTS: England 4, Ireland 2½, Scotland 2½, Wales 0. Brown and K. Paterson (M) vs McGahey and E. Davies (W); 5 and 3 T. Poulton and G. Simpson (W) vs N. Gorman and S. Jones (E); 6 and 5 L. Nicholson and H. Monaghan and A. O'Leary, 8 and 7, S. Jones (E) vs M. Monaghan and A. L. Jones (W); 9 and 8, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 10 and 9, S. Jones (E) vs M. Monaghan and A. L. Jones (W); 11 and 10, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 12 and 11, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 13 and 12, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 14 and 13, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 15 and 14, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 16 and 15, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 17 and 16, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 18 and 17, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. McElroy (W); 19 and 18, S. Jones (E) vs N. G. Simpson and A. M. 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Essex suffer third consecutive defeat

Cook takes turn as match-winner for Northamptonshire

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (final day of three): Northamptonshire (5 pts) beat Essex (5) by an innings and 13 runs

THE Northamptonshire captain has not been alone in pondering whether Nick Cook, his 'salad' days well behind him, would ever again win a match for them. Yesterday came the stunning response. In 18 overs the former England spinner took seven Essex wickets for 34 and his county back into contention for the championship.

These were career-best figures to boot. Essex, the champions and presumed champions-elect, were beaten by an innings, their third first-class defeat in succession. Their members, sated with success, sat around in disbelief for some time afterwards. Such a defeat, after all, is not supposed to occur at Chelmsford.

What made Cook's achievement all the more unexpected was that he gained only marginal turn on as dry a pitch as he will have come across all summer. It is not being un-

COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	BB	BP
Essex (1)	17	6	5	6	49	42
Leics (1)	17	6	5	6	50	46
Warwicks (2)	16	5	6	5	52	172
Notts (1)	14	5	6	3	53	26
Northants (10)	15	5	6	3	53	161
Kent (8)	15	5	6	3	52	154
Derbyshire (3)	15	5	6	3	51	151
Surrey (5)	16	4	7	5	51	143
Somerset (17)	16	3	8	1	45	142
Yorkshire (1)	16	3	8	0	47	142
Sussex (17)	16	3	8	1	45	140
Middesex (15)	15	3	11	2	43	138
Worcesters (1)	17	2	10	5	35	130
Lancashires (8)	17	2	9	5	42	120
Durham (1)	17	2	8	5	34	109
Glamorgan (12)	17	2	8	5	34	98

1991 positions in brackets

INCORRECT SCORING MATCH

kind, only truthful, to say that Bailey, an occasional off-spinner, not only spun the ball more but looked for much the match Northamptonshire's best slow bowler.

In their previous match, against Warwickshire, Lamb said that his side would have bowled them out for 150 (and, by inference, won) had they possessed a 'class spinner'. What the captain has now is a 36-year-old left-arter of re-

newed self-belief and a side 41 points behind Essex with, crucially, a match in hand.

If Cook brought about victory, then Ambrose was the catalyst. In 14 balls in the morning, he ensured that Essex would have to follow on, taking three wickets for one run. Knight, unbeaten on 69 overnight, had his off stump removed without addition.

Essex followed on 171 behind. Other than Stephenson and Hussain, they looked no further than to occupation of the crease, an approach that is alien to them. In that they were playing under their fourth-choice captain, perhaps it was understandable. Keith Fletcher, guardian of their game, was not on the ground.

What Cook did gain was bounce. From one such ball he had Prichard caught at the wicket. Stephenson looked to try to hit Bailey off his length and was stumped. The important wicket of Hussain was taken by Ambrose when he returned for a second spell mid-afternoon. A defensive push only deflected the ball on to the stumps.

Essex also lost Knight before tea, taken at silly point off Cook. Even so, they were then only 31 runs behind, six wickets in hand. It should not have been beyond them to eek out a draw; only Roberts was turning the ball regularly.

What followed beggared belief. The last seven wickets fell for ten runs. Lewis, who batted, or rather bumbled, for 149 minutes, was left on the back foot when he should have been forward. Roberts had Garnham taken at slip and Cook, aided by a brilliant catch by Lamb,astonishingly, with figures of six for two in 41 balls.

Another five for Walsh

with Walsh taking five for 33. He now has 68 wickets.

Sachin Tendulkar's long-awaited first century for Yorkshire took them to a five-wicket victory over Durham. Tendulkar scored 111 in an over from Botham to reach his 96 balls.

Lancashire's first win for two-and-a-half months, against Surrey, came with 13 balls to spare while Hampshire finished three runs short of their target at Worcester.

Gloucestershire, who had been dismissed for 112 earlier in the day, won by ten runs.

Another five for Walsh

LEFT with only 146 runs to beat Gloucestershire at Worksop yesterday, and so move to within 16 points of Essex with two wins in hand, Nottinghamshire found the task beyond them on a wearing pitch against Courtney Walsh, well supported by the young left-arter Mark Wheeler (writes).

Gloucestershire, who had been dismissed for 112 earlier in the day, won by ten runs.

Thrilling end to run chase

By RICHARD STREETON

claimed three crucial wickets. Two was mainly responsible for a promising start by Warwickshire before he was caught at silly point trying to sweep. Trump then caused Lloyd to chop a ball into his stumps and later had the dangerous Neil Smith caught behind. Oster had already gone and a lot depended on Penney and Paul Smith.

Penney struck the ball firmly before he hit across one from Cotam and after Piper ran himself out, Warwickshire still wanted 51 from six overs. Paul Smith hit two sixes as he and Booth added 35 in four overs before Caddick bowled Smith. Eleven were still wanted when the last over began, but when Caddick bowled Donald with the second ball, it

proved the end for Warwickshire's victory hopes.

Somerset first thing were 146 ahead, with only four tailenders to come, when Burns and Macleay restored their fourth-wicket partnership. It took Warwickshire a further 85 minutes to separate them and Donald claimed both men in the course of 12 balls when he returned for a second spell.

Macleay, beaten for pace, had his off stump uprooted after helping to add 87 in 29 overs and Burns was leg-before to one that kept low. Burns hit nine fours and batted with calm authority.

Booth, the left-arm spinner, rapidly ended the innings with a spell of four for five in 21 balls.

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British champion distances herself from team sponsor

Games outfits do not suit Gunnell

FROM JOHN GOODEBODY IN BARCELONA



SALLY Gunnell was involved in a sponsorship dispute yesterday, the morning after she won the Olympic 400m hurdles title.

Gunnell, who has a £30,000 contract with Mizuno, the Japanese shoe company, has been obliged, like every other British competitor, to wear the official uniform provided by Adidas. Adidas has paid more than £10,000 to the British Olympic Association (BOA) for fitting out the entire contingent.

However, when Gunnell, the women's team captain, posed for an individual picture yesterday, she reluctantly agreed to wear the team kit, and asked the photographer not to portray the Adidas logo on her track suit.

What particularly irked Gunnell was that she and Adidas had "a major fall-out over two years ago, when they dumped me", Paul Atherton, the running development manager at Adidas, said: "This may have been a case of sour grapes, but all the athletes have certain contractual responsibilities and they are aware of it."

A BOA spokeswoman said: "All our competitors sign a contract to wear Adidas kit when they are competing, for sponsorship presentations, for interviews and for picture sessions. Obviously we have to look at the wider benefit of the team."

Atherton said: "We are delighted that Sally has won a

gold medal for Britain, even though we have to admit that it is regrettable she is no longer one of our girls."

The decision not to renew the competitor's contract was partly influenced by the fact that the company was not specially aiming at the women's market. Atherton said that Adidas had made a huge investment in the British team and he hoped that no more incidents like this would occur.

Gunnell said yesterday that she had woken up this morning and could not find where she had left her gold medal. "I was panicking," she said. "I forgot I had put it under the pillow when I got back last night before I went out for a meal."

She eventually found it after waking up at 5am still "overwrought" by the race.

Gunnell expects to continue competing for four or five years, beginning with representing her club, Essex Ladies, at the GRE Cup final on Saturday week. She will be married in October in Spain to John Bigg. Her fiancé, watched Gunnell race on Wednesday night when she became only the fifth British woman in history to win an athletics gold medal at the Games.

The couple will live near Brighton and Gunnell wants to continue working as a part-time researcher for the accountants Pannell Kerr Forster in London. "They have given me tremendous support through the hard times and I enjoy it," she said.



Golden wedding: Gunnell and John Bigg, who plan to marry in October

Whitakers poised to qualify



Barcelona: The Whitaker brothers, John and Michael, who finished joint fourth and tenth respectively, after the Olympic team show jumping contest on Tuesday, are both confident about their chances for the individual competition on Sunday (Jenny MacArthur writes).

Neither should have any problem in qualifying.

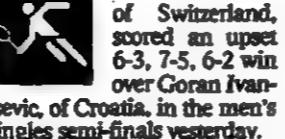
Points earned on Tuesday are carried forward to the qualifying round, from which the leading 45 go through to the final. All the riders then start again on no points.

Both Milton, aged 15, and Monsanta, aged 18, have, so far, confounded fears about their stamina in the sweltering conditions. John McEvoy, the British team veterinarian, said yesterday: "They have both coped remarkably well.

Monsanta, in particular, has come 'bounding' through. Electrolytes given in the feed and regular 'icing down' after being worked have helped their well-being.

Nick Skelton, whose unexpected elimination on Dollar Girl on Tuesday, plunged the British team into seventh place, will have to have a faultless performance today if he is to have any chance of qualifying. He lies 63rd out of 83 starters.

Rosset ousts Ivanisevic



MARC Rosset of Switzerland, scored an upset 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 win over Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia in the men's singles semi-finals.

Ivanisevic looked out of sorts as Rosset earned the right to play Andrei Cherkasov, of the CIS, or Jordi Arrese, of Spain, in tomorrow's final. Rosset, ranked No. 44 in the world and credited with the fastest serve in tennis, served nine

aces but relied on errors by Ivanisevic to win points.

"I am proud to have won a medal for my country, even if it is only a bronze," Ivanisevic said. He also won bronze in the men's doubles.

The world No. 4 said: "He's been playing well all week, but I was empty ... today I was dead. I was late on every ball, I couldn't serve. I've not played for so long in my life." Ivanisevic had played 36 sets in nine days.

Wednesday: 1, W. Tamai (Jpn), 1min 43.6sec; 2, N. Kirov (Kor), 1:43.70; 3, J. Gray (US), 1:43.97; 4, J.-L. Barbes (Fr), 1:45.50; 5, A. Benavent (Sp), 1:45.52; 6, C. Pobell (Cub), 1:45.53; 7, A. Ceballos (Cub), 1:45.57; 8, D. Ceballos (Cub), 1:45.60; 9, S. Takano (Japan), 45.61.

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Pakistan wrest control of fifth Test match

England wilt under the barrage from Wasim

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (first day of five; England won toss): Pakistan, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 191 runs behind England

All day long, England's grip on this Cornhill series was finger tip tight. In the lengthening shadows of the evening session, they let it slip to the ground with a resounding clatter as Wasim Akram gained overdue recognition for suffering on a grand scale.

Wasim could have reversed the result of the Headingly Test with a modicum of justice for innumerable moral victories. He kept his head and his humour in a way that set an example to the less composed of his colleagues and yesterday, as the routine repeated itself, he even allowed himself a few rueful grins.

His recompense was dramatic and complete. As England plummets from the deceptive comfort of 182 for three to the dire inadequacy of 207 all out, Wasim took five for seven in 23 balls. Three were bowled, two leg-before, as the peerless left-arter of Lahore and Lancashire, located a devastating line.

This was not quite the end of the indignities heaped upon England by Wasim. When they came out to field for the final five overs of the day, Robin Smith was keeping

wicket. It was the legacy of a blow on Alec Stewart's left foot, requiring an x-ray, as he faced Wasim while, hopefully for the last time, trying to combine two key roles.

Stewart had opened with Gooch as the game began in the way England would have hoped. It was a good toss to win on a true pitch and Gooch will have set out with ambitions of 450-plus, first to insure against defeat and then to bid for victory.

It would be trite to say that England batted badly. The truth is that Pakistan bowled to their potential, which is wonderfully well. There was not a phase of the day in which the batsmen were in com-

mand, despite conditions being as friendly as at any stage of the series.

Pakistan made one anticipated change, substituting Shoaib for Izazam, and another which came as a surprise, leaving out Moin to give Rashid Latif a Test debut. At Headingly, Latif incurred the displeasure of the match referee by hurling down his cap while fielding as substitute. Now he took his role as wicket-keeper, with the precaution of playing bare-headed.

England, who preferred

Pringle to Munton, reached 39 without loss in 11 overs. All was apparently going to plan. But Wasim had already indicated the way Pakistan meant to bowl to Gooch, firing it in short with close fielders on both sides of the pitch, and when Aqib followed suit, the England captain could do no more than spoon the ball to short leg. Stewart, too, fell for the sucker punch, though to an attacking shot. Failing to control a hook against Wasim, he was caught at long leg.

For more than two hours, Atherton and Smith remained together. It was, however, an uneasy marriage, separation never far away. Smith was worked over by Waqar, only one of five short balls in succession being deemed a bouncer. Wasim went past Atherton's outside edge for a

passtime; then Mushtaq, beginning an unchanged three-hour spell, bewitched and bothered both batsmen.

Smith, who has been disappointing since his century in the first Test, lost patience after 150 minutes and charged Mushtaq, driving outside the onrushing googly and being bowled before Latif could stump him.

Gower emerged to his usual ovation but when he raised his arms, it was in mock triumph after making contact with the seventh ball he received. Despite driving deliciously against Mushtaq, and square-cutting Aqib with certainty, it was no surprise when he dragged a short one on.

This was the beginning of the end. Wasim wound himself up and enjoyed the fortune which had spurned him for so long. Ramprakash went forward and Lewis back to two inswingers; the result was the same. The tall was simply swept away, while Waqar gained a solitary wicket. It was, though, the vital one of Atherton, who had batted 262 minutes for 60. It was a work of great perseverance, without which England's plight this morning would be still more dreadful.

John Woodcock, page 26

Photograph, page 26

Wasim: peerless

SCORING CARD FROM THE OVAL

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

	6s	4s	Mins	Balls
G A Gooch c Muttiah b Aqib Lobbed rising ball to short leg	20	0	2	40
A J Stewart c Ramiz b Wasim	31	0	4	65
Hoofed right leg to short square leg				
M Waqar b Latif b Waqar	80	0	5	262
Defensive forward shot, edged to keeper				
R A Smith b Mushtaq	33	0	3	149
Leaping out to drive googly				
D Gower b Aqib	27	0	4	83
Square cutting, inside edge onto leg stump				
M R Ramprakash b Waqar	2	0	0	6
Stretching forward				
C Atherton b Waqar	4	0	0	12
Playing back to fast back-break				
D R Pringle b Waqar	1	0	0	3
Yored				
N A Malfender b Waqar	4	0	0	10
Yored				
P G H Tufnell not out	0	0	0	13
D E Malcolm b Waqar	2	0	0	7
Yored				
Extras (0 4, 1b 8, w 1, nb 10)	23			
Total (229 mins, 76.1 overs)	507			

FALL: 1-39 (Stewart 16), 2-138 (Atherton 1), 3-138 (Atherton 48), 4-182 (Atherton 54), 5-192 (Atherton 59), 6-196 (Atherton 60), 7-193 (Atherton 60), 8-203 (Malfender 3), 9-203 (Tufnell 0), 10-207 (Tufnell 0).

BOWLING: Waqar 22.1-3-67-6 (no 6) (5-0-40-1, 7-2-9-0, 7-1-1-18-1) (w 1)

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: 50-22 mins, 14.1 overs. Lunch 50-2 (Atherton 17, Smith 12, 27 overs, 100, 153 mins, 37.2 overs). Tea 148-3 (Atherton 43, Gower 5), 80 overs. 150-242 mins, 62 overs, 200, 310 mins, 75 overs. Innings closed 6.25pm.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

	6s	4s	Mins	Balls
Aamir Sohail not out	9	0	2	21
Ramiz Raaja not out	7	0	0	21
Total (87 mins, 8 overs)	16			

And Muttiah, Javed Miandad, Salm Malik, Shoaib Mohammad, Wasim Akram, + Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed and Aqib Javed to bat.

BOWLING: Malfender 3-1-5-0 (one spell); Malcolm 2-0-11-0 (one spell).

TELEVISION: BBC 10.00-13.00, 14.20-18.00 and BBC2 13.00-14.20; Live coverage with Olympic Grandstand, BBC2 23.30-midnight; Highlights.

RADIO: Radio 3: 10.35-18.10. Commentary, Radio 4: 10.00-22.10; Summaries.

PREVIOUS TESTS: June 4-9: Edgbaston: Match drawn. June 18-22: Lord's: Pakistan won by two wickets. July 8-7: Old Trafford: Match drawn. July 23-27: Headingley: England won 10-97 (Tufnell 0).

WEATHER: Today: Starting dry, but clouding over, with thunderstorms possible in late afternoon. Increasingly humid. Tomorrow: Continuing cloud and heavy showers, giving way to brighter spells.

John Woodcock, page 26

Photograph, page 26

Wasim: peerless

Why Uncle Sam barely got to first base

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN BARCELONA

WHEN you have been World Series baseball champions forever, it is hard to take being struck out of the medals when your national game is finally included in the Olympics.

But then the World Series is not really a world series, and the men that pursue that particular glory and the accompanying multi-million-dollar rewards are locked out of the Olympics not just out of amateur rules but also by their paymasters.

The 20 college kids who turned out for the United States at the Hospitalite stadium, in the lush valley at the foot of the shimmering Tibidabo hills, were given

every help to do their best for the national cause. At the medal-deciding games, a near-capacity crowd of almost 7,000 proved popularity, while the Spartans even played American rockabilly and country music between innings for them.

But with an average age of 21, the apprentices lacked the experience to deal with the expertise of older sides from Cuba, who beat Chinese Taipei 11-1 in the final, and Japan, who beat the Americans 8-3 for the bronze.

A twin resolution to Uncle Sam's dilemma would lie in changing International Baseball Association (IBA) rules and in pressure from an American public which, according to the NBC television

network, has spent more quality dream-team time watching basketball than any other sport.

The theory is that by the time Atlanta opens its doors to the Olympic family, Ameri-

cans would no more tolerate defeat by Cuba than give Fidel Castro the keys to New York, the birthplace in 1837 of baseball, which was an Olympic demonstration sport six times.

Ron Fraser, the American

team manager, said: "I doubt

whether there will ever be a 'dream team' in Olympic base-

ball. The other IBA countries

would never vote for it. They're

not going to vote for something that would destroy them. Nor would the agents release their best players for three weeks at the height of the season. Olympics or not. Sure, the American people might well do it."

An American dream team

might include Roger Clemens,

the Boston Red Sox

pitcher, Kirby Puckett, an

outfielder with the Minnesota

Twins, and Ryne Sandberg, a

second baseman with the Chi-

cago Cubs. This season, those

three will earn about \$17

million among them.

Fraser, a mild-mannered

manager who has been at the

top of the amateur side of his

profession for 32 years, and

for whom Barcelona was a

swansong, was "pleased with

the kids", 15 of whom have

been drafted by professional

teams searching for their

future leaders. But he lamented

that while American amatu-

rs received no rewards, Cuba was a state-funded and wealthy team and Chinese

Taipei players received \$200,000 each for making the

final.

BRITAIN will be without a

representative in either the

men's or women's 1,500

metres finals tomorrow.

Matthew Yates, Kevin McKay and

Kirsty Wade, Britain's three

semi-final qualifiers, were all

eliminated yesterday.

It is the first time for 32

years that Britain has not

provided a men's 1,500

metres finalist.

McKay went out

in the first semi-final after

losing contact down the back

straight of the final lap. With

the first five to qualify, he was tenth

in 3min 40.80sec.

Noureddine Morelli, the

world champion, from Algeria, won in 3:39.22 while one of his closest main challengers for the title, Jens-Peter

Herold, of Germany, only

squeezed in, finishing fifth in

3:39.55.

Yates, troubled by the effects

of a viral illness for much of

the season, was twelfth after

gallantly setting the pace over



HEALTH p5
Is winning
Olympic gold
all in the
mind?



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY AUGUST 7 1992

MOTORING p6
Beaulieu at
40, a unique
national
institution



Speaking from the heart of Slovenia

Rather than watch
her homeland
being torn apart,
Lady Nott, whose
husband was
Britain's defence
secretary, has
stepped into
the limelight

Miloska Nott was a good political wife. Unobtrusive, devoted and self-effacing. During the years her husband was in office she stayed mainly in Cornwall with their three children, opening fêtes, growing daffodils. People used to ask what John Nott's wife looked like.

But, behind the scenes, she was deeply affected by events. During the Falklands war in 1982 — when her husband was defence secretary — her fair hair turned white overnight. It was the night HMS Sheffield went down. "I didn't sleep very much. I got up in the morning, looked in the mirror and I couldn't believe it: I was grey."

Now, like most of us, she has watched the news coverage from old Yugoslavia with mounting despair and helplessness. Unlike most of us, though, she packed a bag and went. It is her homeland. "I couldn't any more watch what was happening. I took my suitcase and produced myself to the camp. I know this country. I am Slovene. I speak Serbo-Croat. I could sit with them and listen, so my information is not from officials or government, but from the people. They put arms round me and we cry together — I have never cried so much — and they tell me, 'My son has been killed', or they have no news of their husbands since the war started. Any mother with me could not but be in tears with me. The misery, the misery."

"I heard such things ... I know the truth. These are not people that would lie. People living 100 miles apart tell you the same stories, so a pattern emerges of how this ethnic cleansing, this genocide, takes place."

No reports of atrocity could be disbelieved after Wednesday, when the world was newly outraged by the mortar attack on the children's funeral in Sarajevo. That night, BBC2's *Newsnight* addressed the pros and cons of military intervention. It was a largely masculine affair: Professor John Casey disparaging "media jingoism", diplomats Sir Nico Henderson and Sir Anthony Parsons speaking with gentlemanly caution of more peace talks, sanctions, of protecting convoys of relief supplies, of "creating an atmosphere where negotiations would have more meaning".

And there was Lady Nott, with her fine-boned Slavic face, her exclaimable Slovene accent, her passion. Did we detect an aura of polite unnervement? There always is, when a woman speaks from the heart in the middle of a reasoned, male political discussion. Only Lady Nott had been to the refugee camps, and heard at first hand that the atrocities we are allowed to see in Sarajevo are only the tip of a hideous iceberg.

When I met her at midnight, she was due to fly to Cornwall in the morning, but suggested we meet at 6am. Her days invariably start at that hour, down on the daffodil farm. She was in a floral frock and scarlet shoes, packed for the airport but quite ready to talk non-stop.

"I am not a politician. I have never made a political speech in my life. I became political only a few weeks ago. I tell you, six years ago I would have died rather than go on television. For all my years as a politician's wife, you have never seen me in public. I never hung around the House of Commons or anything. But for this cause I would go to the end of the earth."

When she returned from her second visit to the refugee camps, she asked to see Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to tell what she knew of the concentration camps. She was told, Mr Hurd could not see her for a month. Margaret Thatcher was more sympathetic. She saw Lady Nott at once, and



"For all my years as a politician's wife, you have never seen me in public. I never hung around the House of Commons or anything. But for this cause I would go to the end of the earth": Miloska Nott

agreed to become one of the trustees, along with Professor Norman Stone and others, of her Fund for Refugees in Slovenia.

This is now her crusade. The Muslim Bosnians, an ancient European people who have lived peacefully with their Croatian and Serbian neighbours, are being systematically deprived of a motherland, deported or "ethnically cleansed" — slaughtered. Terrible violence is inflicted on women and children. Lady Nott rages at the "absolute stupidity" of the arms embargo placed by the rest of Europe on the defenceless victims of an aggressor who has enough munitions for ten years and its own factory, and gets masses of lorries through Romania. God knows from where.

"A boy, who had seen three of his friends killed, said to me: 'How can it be that we have democratically elected government, recognised by European countries, and yet tell us we must not defend our homes and our country? We have nothing to fight with.'"

In her view the Foreign Office was too busy fussing over Maastricht to listen to earlier warnings about Serbian expansionism. "The Austrian foreign minister, the Hungarians, the Italians, Hans-Dietrich Genscher [the German foreign minister] — all of them understood the problem very well, they knew what was happening. And we didn't listen. The Foreign Office didn't feel it was important enough."

"We should have been the leaders of co-ordination of Common Market countries. We could have negotiated with strength, not with weakness of disunity. To me Maastricht is a joke, a complete joke. If we cannot sort out a problem in our back yard in Europe, how can we talk about Maastricht? What does Maastricht really mean?"

Mr Hurd is to summon another peace conference on August 26. The futility of it all exasperates her. "The more peace talks, the more people get killed. Are we going to do nothing about the slaughter of thousands? Every time they have a ceasefire — and we have over a hundred ceasefires — they are pounded more heavily. We are lunching and dining these self-appointed leaders who have not been elected."

"How can you preach for 60 years that democracy is people's right and that it is a sacrifice to offend democracy, and then when they have a plebiscite, like in Slovenia, tell them, no, sorry, you can't have your democracy, your independence? What kind of a dual standard is that?"

"I feel loyalty to Britain. I have lived here 37 years. I came out of former Yugoslavia ten terrible years after communism, and here in Britain I have learnt about justice, about moral principle, and about protecting the oppressed."

In Slovenia, working alongside the Red Cross in Slovenska Bistrica, in a makeshift refugee camp in an old factory with no hot water, she distributed 200 packs labelled "Help from the people of Great Britain". "And they said, 'But we thought the people of Great Britain didn't like us' — containing supplies of flour, sugar, oil, long-life milk, rice, tins of sardines, toothpaste and soap. These one-month supplies consumed her first £5,000. Then she ran out of money. Money, she says, is coming in slowly (she has an account at Barclays Bank, Oxford Circus, London). The refugees, some of whom had trekked 200 miles to the frontier, told her how Serbian forces would arrive in a village, trick the inhabitants by calling them "brothers" or "friends", say they had not come to fight, then make them give up their munitions — a pathetic few guns — then surround the village, getting people to sign over their houses to Serbian families. Announcing, "This is now our property", they would invariably kill a few villagers for good measure. "So terror reigns, and they frighten everybody to death," Lady Nott says.

"Fifty journalists have died so far to bring us the truth, and we almost blame them for bringing us bad news from Sarajevo. They allow the journalists in to the capital, and the refugees tell me the best service we have done to the Serbian army is to concentrate on Sarajevo, so that atrocities could take place, village

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



by village, all over Bosnia. People arrive in Sarajevo as a refuge from what is happening much worse outside."

"Lady Chalker [the minister for overseas development] said these people must remain near their homes, but I am asking her, which homes? Do the Croats have to take more refugees? Or the Slovenes? And how can these two republics

smuggle out people who were on the danger list. Jewish and Slovene, who were going to be deported to the concentration camps in Germany."

"They used some sort of tunnel to get to the Pohorje mountains, where they can escape. Five months before the war ended he was caught. His friend was caught first and was so mutilated and tortured by the Gestapo he gave my father's name away."

"She spent her own wartime childhood at a farm, for safety, and afterwards attended a *gymnasium* in Slovenia. Later she went to Munich, and at 17 to Cambridge to learn English. There she met her husband to be, who was reading law and economics at Trinity. They married in 1959, the year he was president of the Cambridge Union. She was 24, he three years older.

"He said then that he would spend 15 years in politics, and her he now leads the much easier life of chairman of Lazard Brothers, the merchant bankers, is plain. "I still feel sorry for every Cabinet minister's wife," she says.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, lives right next door to them in Chelsea. The admirable Sandra Howard has Lady Nott's sympathy.

The Nott's children — Julian, William and Sase (pronounced Sasha) — have all now left home, and she has been content until now to be a successful dandil farmer. Now is

the season for lifting, pre-cooling and sterilising the bulls before replanting: in early spring she employs 70 pickers — and is shocked to see daffodils selling in London for £1.50 for a bunch of ten (she gets 13p in the market) in March.

But now, with Sir John's encouragement — he has lent her a full-time secretary, and approached companies to donate supplies — she is going back to Slovenia.

She describes the shell-shocked, glassy-eyed look of a young woman who had walked for two weeks with her three-month-old baby in her arms. And the grandmother who had seen two sons killed, with

another son missing in Sarajevo, who told of the "sadistic" Serbs coming to her village. They asked her if she owned any cows, and whether she had ever seen a cow burning alive, then threw a grenade into her barn, so that she heard the screams of her burning animals.

"Not all Serbs are bad," she adds. "Serbian people don't know what is happening in the name of their government. But what sort of aggressor deliberately destroys all the ancient monuments and churches and mosques in Croatia, who wipes out — in the middle of Europe — all former civilisation, the history and culture of 1,000 years?

"People say, 'They're all killing each other', but they're not. There is the aggressor and there are the defenders. And if we allow an inch of land to the aggressor, it will be infectious."

"How thin the membrane of civilisation seems," reflected James Cox, the *Newsnight* anchorman, on Wednesday night. "The words of politicians and diplomats have a hollow ring."

While in the refugee camps, Lady Nott watched Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate for the American presidency, on television. When the candidate mentioned Bosnia, everyone in the camp was cheered. They clutched at such words as "The Bosnians dream of the American Sixth Fleet and the RAF coming to their rescue, taking our targets, a swift end to the nightmare. She tells them not to be afraid of ground troops. "I tell them, how would a British mother feel when she receives a letter, 'Your son has bravely fought in Bosnia' and she does not even know where Bosnia is? All we want is air force, Sixth Fleet, and the means to fight, instead of being left naked the way you leave us now."

"People must understand, the people they are not destined to be, they are quite affluent, they have video, it is exactly as if it is done to you or me, only they surround your village and surround your house and say, 'This is now our property.' They are a very proud people, who never thought this would happen to them. They want to go home."

TOMORROW

Wild fling: the old-fashioned fun of the Scottish season

I came out of former Yugoslavia
ten terrible years after
communism, and in Britain I have
learnt about justice, about
moral principle, and about
protecting the oppressed'

cope? Hungary can't cope with 600,000. Why are we shirking our responsibility on a humanitarian basis?

"You know when the Jewish people were taken to concentration camps, we said we did not know. Well, now we know, everybody knows there is systematic 'ethnic cleansing'. And what we are doing? We are watching it happen."

Her own father died in Dachau. He ran a small hotel-restaurant at Maribor, near the border with Austria. "All the Gestapo used to come and eat there. For almost all the war my father was helping to

planting the bulls before replanting: in early spring she employs 70 pickers — and is shocked to see daffodils selling in London for £1.50 for a bunch of ten (she gets 13p in the market) in March. But now, with Sir John's encouragement — he has lent her a full-time secretary, and approached companies to donate supplies — she is going back to Slovenia.

She describes the shell-shocked, glassy-eyed look of a young woman who had walked for two weeks with her three-month-old baby in her arms. And the grandmother who had seen two sons killed, with

another son missing in Sarajevo, who told of the "sadistic" Serbs coming to her village. They asked her if she owned any cows, and whether she had ever seen a cow

burning alive, then threw a grenade into her barn, so that she heard the screams of her burning animals.

"Not all Serbs are bad," she adds.

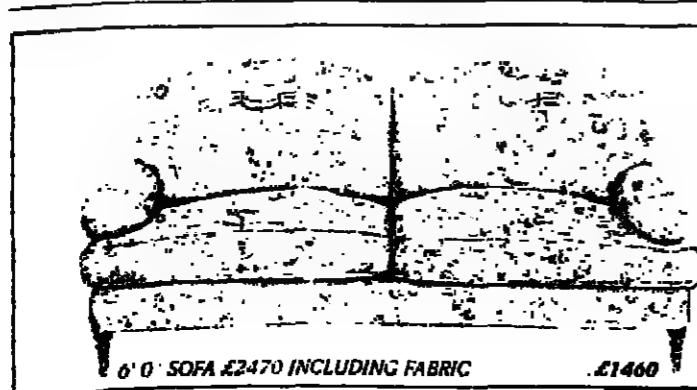
"Serbian people don't know what is happening in the name of their government. But what sort of aggressor deliberately destroys all the ancient monuments and churches and mosques in Croatia, who wipes out — in the middle of Europe — all former civilisation, the history and culture of 1,000 years?

"People say, 'They're all killing each other', but they're not. There is the aggressor and there are the defenders. And if we allow an inch of land to the aggressor, it will be infectious."

"How thin the membrane of civilisation seems," reflected James Cox, the *Newsnight* anchorman, on Wednesday night. "The words of politicians and diplomats have a hollow ring."

While in the refugee camps, Lady Nott watched Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate for the American presidency, on television. When the candidate mentioned Bosnia, everyone in the camp was cheered. They clutched at such words as "The Bosnians dream of the American Sixth Fleet and the RAF coming to their rescue, taking our targets, a swift end to the nightmare. She tells them not to be afraid of ground troops. "I tell them, how would a British mother feel when she receives a letter, 'Your son has bravely fought in Bosnia' and she does not even know where Bosnia is? All we want is air force, Sixth Fleet, and the means to fight, instead of being left naked the way you leave us now."

"People must understand, the people they are not destined to be, they are quite affluent, they have video, it is exactly as if it is done to you or me, only they surround your village and surround your house and say, 'This is now our property.' They are a very proud people, who never thought this would happen to them. They want to go home."



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Galleries: John Russell Taylor on a show which is a visual cornerstone of the Edinburgh International Festival

Grow accustomed to these faces



Are there no real rediscoveries in art? The sour-puss view is that no artist is forgotten or neglected without good reason; received wisdom is the true wisdom, and radical reassessments are merely the desperate attempts of dealers to find new things to buy cheap and sell expensive, or of scholars to invent new areas in which to assert their unique expertise.

But why is Allan Ramsay not usually spoken of in the same breath as his contemporaries Gainsborough and Reynolds? For some years now there has been a general feeling that he should be. The bicentenary of his death in 1984 went ominously unmarked, but this year one of the cornerstone Edinburgh Festival exhibitions finally gives us the chance to reassess for ourselves. Southerners are given the same chance in October, at London's National Portrait Gallery instead of Edinburgh's.

Even as an 18th-century portraitist Ramsay has had certain drawbacks. He did not paint the sort of portrait sold at astronomical prices to rich Americans in search of impressive surrogate ancestors. He was not a practitioner of the "swagger portrait".

Rather, he concentrated on the subtleties of character, particularly feminine character, in the faces of his subjects, and over the whole composition was most concerned with achieving the ultimate in delicate colour harmonies. Like little else before Whistler, his paintings could legitimately be given abstract titles, such as "Harmony in Pink and Grey": the rhetoric of the more showy 18th-century portrait is completely lacking.

Even the large-scale works here — reflecting Ramsay's most public phase, as court painter to George III — retain this subdued, intimate quality. In portraits of George III and Queen Charlotte in their coronation robes, for instance, one is most conscious of not the monarch as symbol and seat of power, but the exquisite precision with which the yards of pale grey



Ramsay's portraits of Samuel Toriano (left, from a private collection) and Margaret, the painter's second wife (National Gallery of Scotland), on show in Edinburgh

ermines have been rendered.

With the more intimate portraits the most obvious parallel is with nobody from Ramsay's own century, but that 19th-century master of silvery half-tones Hammershøi. His pink, dusky gold and grey intensities seem standing ready to be peopled by Ramsay's pink, dusky gold and grey people.

Ramsay obtained the unlikely

position of court painter through a friendship with that important figure of the Scottish Enlightenment, the Earl of Bute. Bute was a Scot who spent much of his time in London, as tutor to the Prince of Wales and confidant to his mother. He privately commissioned Ramsay to paint a full-length portrait of the Prince, and this turned out so

successfully that the Prince then commissioned him to paint a

corresponding portrait of Bute. Both these works were sufficiently in the grand manner which Ramsay had learnt in the studio of Solimena in Naples and through personal contact with Batoni in Rome on his first two-year visit to Italy, from 1736 to 1738.

But one fascination of the Edinburgh show, arranged in strict chronological order, is to see how rapidly Ramsay progressed. There is a stiffness, almost primitive, in his very earliest works; then come baroque touches in such works as the portrait of his Italian travelling companion, Samuel Toriano; and finally, by the beginning of the 1750s, portraits that proclaim him

absolutely his own man.

He turned his back on the

elaborations of his Italian teachers and went back to the directness and

simplicity of his first works, though this time transfigured by the tremendous technical ease and finesse he had acquired. It also helped, no doubt, that he often painted people he knew. They included his family and the Edinburgh friends with whom in 1754 he founded the Select Society, among them Adam Smith, David Hume and Hugh Dalrymple (Lord Drummond) — the judge whose grandly informal portrait is one of Ramsay's first mature masterpieces.

In Ramsay's famous portrait of his second wife, Margaret, the effect is even more natural. She leans forward towards a vase of flowers she is arranging, and turns her head to gaze at the spectator with a slight question in her eyes, for all the world as though her painter-husband has just come into

the room unexpectedly and she looks round to see what he wants. It is the perfect example of Ramsay's ideal, the wholly "natural portrait", and may well have been one of the pictures which inspired Horace Walpole to observe in 1759 that Ramsay was "all delicacy".

Walpole's contrast at that time

was with Reynolds. He says the two are "our favourite painters, and two of the very best we ever had", but "can scarce be rivals, their manners are so different". He sees Reynolds as seldom successful with women sitters, while "Mr. Ramsay is formed to paint them". It is certainly not that Ramsay was incapable of painting men well, but he does not give the impression of being sufficiently interested in power to capture it on canvas.

On the other hand, he is clearly

fascinated by women whom he sees quite unsentimentally; he never makes the mistake of assuming that honour has been satisfied if he merely records a pretty face. His second wife is undoubtedly pretty, but what he captures about her is tenderness, vulnerability and at the same time inner strength and even a slight touch of asperity. A certain Frenchness in the light, feathery touch does not come amiss in doing justice to his women's surface charms, but the sharpness of perception and warmth of sympathy belong to Ramsay alone.

● Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh (031-556 8921). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm; during the festival, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm. Until September 27, admission £3, concessions £1.50. Sponsored by Mobil.

LONDON GALLERIES: ARCHITECTURE

Calculating the leap from graphs to girders

Marcus Binney welcomes an overview of the work of architectural engineer Peter Rice



His ideas in action: the IBM Pavilion, on which Peter Rice worked, toured for three years in the early 1980s

the Moon Theatre at St André de Bueos in Provence, lit entirely by reflected moonlight. What looks like a Third World shanty town is a complex series of mirrors which track the moon during each performance. With the latest refinements these should achieve an intensification of 400 times the light of the full moon, powering spots, side-lights and footlights. Computer calculations must be made afresh each night.

Part of Rice's talent is that he constantly looks back to history and sideways to nature. Having contributed in 1981 to Renzo Piano's spectacular IBM Pavilion, a "demountable" structure (now destroyed) exploring the use of polycarbonate, Rice uses a historical analogy to explain his contribution to Piano's design for the new Kansai international terminal in Osaka, Japan. "Renzo saw a giant bird or plane alighting on the artificial island five kilometres out in the bay. To this I added the spirit and detailing of the early 20th century Blériot biplanes to help make the transition in scale to those who will use it." The girders of Rice's roof trusses have the V-shape profile of the strut that held the early plane wings together.

So far, Rice says disarmingly: "We have discovered that the spider is using the techniques of the late-20th-century engineer, but with much more elegance and precision."

One key to Rice's approach is his desire to bring back personality into architecture. He says that the process of building has been smothered by the language of the standardised industrial product, the girder and the tube".

His structural daring is evident in the new TGV station he is designing for Charles de Gaulle Airport outside Paris with the architect Paul Andreu. This is the modern counterpart of the great all-iron and glass roofs of Victorian railway termini, but the characteristic arched profile is turned upside down to become a crescent, supported not at the side but by fan-shaped pylons at the centre, and tied by cables at the side.

In the post-war years the focus of new architecture has often been largely on enclosing space. Rice, by contrast, has been at the forefront of using new materials to virtuously effect. In Britain the best

known examples are the Teflon roof canopies he designed for the new stand at Lord's cricket ground with the architect Michael Hopkins.

The Irish-born Rice first joined Ove Arup in London in 1956. But his major commissions have been increasingly in France, Italy and Japan. Recently he has been seriously ill, but was able to attend the ceremony at which he was awarded this year's Royal Gold Medal by the RIBA. Almost all his life he has worked jointly with architects. Now he should be given a commission for a great solo engineering project. Without it, late-20th-century civil engineering in Britain will seem like the railways without Brunel.

● Exploring Materials: The Work of Peter Rice at RIBA Gallery, 66 Portland Place, London W1 071-580 5533. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until August 25.

TELEVISION REVIEW

How the west was wandered, and a paradise was lost

As the French film director Jean-Luc Godard once remarked: "Le Moral, c'est le travelling." He was right in the sense that morality is picked up along the way — and in the sense that travel forces instant moral reaction to the unexpected.

Last night's third instalment of *Early Travellers in North America* (BBC 2) looked at the shocked response of 19th-century travellers to the decline of native tribes in what was becoming modern America.

Dickens was struck by the cultivation of an Indian encountered: "He had read many books and Scots poetry appeared to have left a strong impression upon his mind. I asked him what he thought of Congress. He answered with a smile that it wanted dignity in an Indian's eyes." Rudyard Kipling was depressed by the listless descent of tribesmen into alcoholism. Robert Louis Stevenson told the tale of a hair-raising brush with Indians "so close that we could hear their tomahawks jingle".

Catherine Parr Traill, an early victim of the "Canada Fever" of the 1820s and 1830s and author of the *Female Emigrant's Guide*, recalled with awe the native music: "A chorus of rich voices filled the little hut with a melody which thrilled us to our very hearts. The hymn was sung in the Indian tongue, a language that is peculiarly sweet and soft in its cadences. I wish you'd been there to witness the scene."

This series has attempted bravely to translate written recollections to television, using the familiar device of the talking head and nodding in the direction of period dress, with well-chosen images of contemporary America flickering into view. The overall impact is not quite enough to sustain the attention for much longer than a quarter of an hour — anthologies are things to be browsed through at leisure, rather than watched.

sequentially. But the idea is highly imaginative: to understand the beginnings of the greatest power on Earth in a chamber setting, through the eyes of early idealists and observers.

The predominance of women in the series — Traill, her sister Susanna Moodie and Frances Trollope — says something about the role of travel in the birth of feminist emancipation. Liberated geographically, these remarkable women evidently felt free to speak their minds and above all to put their disgust at the fate of the Indians on the record.

In some ways little has changed. These travellers were burdened by the same sort of helpless guilt about the fate of

the Indians as their successors, a century before the fashionable angst of *Dances with Wolves* or *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Certainly, Moodie spoke for future generations of the American intelligentsia when she wrote: "Often have I grieved that people with such generous impulses should be degraded and corrupted... A mysterious destiny involves and hangs over, pressing them into the wilderness and slowly and surely sweeping them from the Earth."

Nineteenth century writers were as disgusted by the decline of the Indian as today's politically correct intelligentsia, and just as powerless to do anything about it.

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Lure for the British angler: the river Risle in Normandy is reckoned by at least one authority to offer better fishing than anywhere in England

The compleat pêcheur



A VAST American encyclopaedia of fishing published recently gave French fly fishing short shrift. Much of the best trout water was, it reported, private and the rest rated less than two paragraphs. In a sport dominated by the English-speaking world France seems largely ignored.

And yet France is the country where they invented *truite meunière*. The French have every right to protest that once again the Anglo-Saxon world is conspiring against them. Perhaps it is snobbery. What is the upright English dry fly fisherman with his fly box of Blue Waterny Olives and Lunn's Particulars to make of anglers who use flies such as *Peute*, a word from the Franc-Comté dialect that means 'The Ugly One', *La Loue*, the Lout (ded with feathers the colour of 'rose champagne'); or *Cul de Canard*, Duck's Rump? Can you take seriously some-

GLOSSARY

La pêche à la mouche — by fishing
La pêche au lancer — spinning
La pêche au vif — live baiting
Une canne — a fishing rod
Une moulinette — a reel
Une soie — a fly line
"vous aries d'voir celui qui s'est échappé" — "You should have seen the one that got away"

France offers good sport — and good value — for trout fishers, Stewart Tendler says

one who fishes with a fly made from the feathers of a rare form of vulture? It might be wise. The chalk downs and geology which produce fat trout and world famous fishing on rivers such as the Test and Itchen continue across the Channel, which means that Normandy is anything but a piscatorial backwater. Jean-Paul Pequegnot, the author of a book on French flies claims that the upper reaches of the Seine produce one of the most handsome chalk streams in the world. Charles Ritz, a celebrated French writer and angler, went further and claimed his cherished stretch of the Risle in Normandy was better than anything to be found in England.

Rivers listed by Dr Pequegnot throughout France include the mighty Rhône, the Ain, the Allier, the Guiers and the Saône and the Jet near Quimper. Jon Beer, an English angling writer, has fished on the Moselle, and the annual *Where to Fish* edited by D.A. Orton acknowledges in little more than a page on French fishing that trout are available at almost every turn from the Savoy Alps to the Pyrenees.

According to Mr Beer, France has the added charm that fishing is not surrounded by the sort of class-consciousness which still dogs a lot of the Pyrenees.

Much of Normandy is in private hands and fishing might be possible by arrangement. Ken and Downey, a London company specialising in fishing, offers days on the Risle close to the Acou stretch beloved by Charles Ritz. The fishing includes bed and breakfast at a country hotel and starts at £110 for one night and one day's fishing plus payment for a licence.

Outside Normandy, stretches of the

rivers are divided between local clubs. The angler must join the local club of the area, called an Association Agrée de Pêche et Pisciculture (AAP). He or she may also have to pay an additional annual amount to the local federation of clubs. In all, this might come to £10-20 on top of the national tax and supplement. Anglers will need a passport photograph to put on their membership card. Last year Mr Beer fished the Moselle for a total of about £1270 (£28.10).

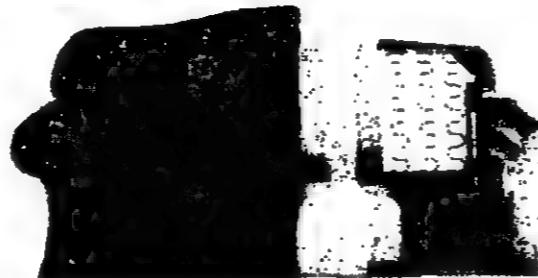
For further information available from the French Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. *Le Conseil Supérieur de la Pêche et Pisciculture de France*, 10 Rue Poelaert, Paris 75015. *Trout and Salmon* magazine publishes articles on fishing in France and carries advertisements for fishing holidays in France. *Ken and Downey* are at 14 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3DB. French Fishing Flies is published by Nick Lyons Books, New York and is available in Britain at £15.25. Where to Fish is published by Thomas Harmsworth, price £8.95.

TOMORROW
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Shona Crawford Poole on
the majesty of the Alps
when the snow melts away

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The two small stone houses, with slate roofs, set in a courtyard and separated by a corridor which includes an entrance hall, WC, bathroom and workshop, have been modernised and would be suitable for letting. The cottage (on the left of the picture) has a ground floor bedroom

with open stone fireplace and exposed beams; plus a bedroom in the loft. The second cottage has a large living room, with corner kitchen and

stairs to an attic bedroom. The United Kingdom agent is Property France, Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire (tel: 0235-772211).



A long drive south and west in the Pyrénées Atlantiques, £46,000 (including agency fees) will pay for this partially renovated village house, a few miles south-west of Pau, the capital city of ancient Beams in the foothills of the Pyrenees. The Atlantic coast and airport at Biarritz can be reached in 90 minutes.

The old house has been renovated to a high standard, retaining many original features, with exposed stone walls, a new roof, floors and windows. It needs a new septic tank, re-piping, bathroom and WC. It comprises an open-plan kitchen/living

room, with an old stone sink and fireplace, flagstone floor and beamed ceiling; four bedrooms and space for a bathroom, and comes with a



garage and small garden. The agent for the United Kingdom is Stix, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (tel: 071-384 1200).

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century Pope. You can get a more modern view of their origins and meaning in

Think about it, and you might be a winner

Can mental exercise help an athlete to win an Olympic gold? Jon Stock looks at the psychology of success — and failure

The performances of roommates Linford Christie and Colin Jackson in the Barcelona Olympics could not have been more different. Few who saw Christie's victory in the men's 100-metres will forget his pop-eyed look of steely concentration. "All I had to do was focus," he said afterwards in a masterful understatement. Jackson, on the other hand crashed and stumbled his way to finish a miserable seventh in the men's 110 metres hurdles. "It was the first time I have gone into a race as favourite," he said. "All I had to do was go out and perform."

One of the most significant things to have emerged from these Olympics is the importance of mental health as well as physical fitness. The ability to maintain self-belief and cope with pressure is vital. Jackson was the fastest man this year, at his event. Everyone thought he was going to win. Everyone, perhaps, except himself.

"How many times has Jackson gone over those hurdles and not hit them? It was not a technical problem in the final. Quite clearly there was something else in the jigsaw which was not right," says Lew Hardy, a sports psychologist at the University of Wales in Bangor.

After the race, his friends and the press were amazed to see Jackson relaxed and smiling. The feeling was that anyone as happy as he seemed couldn't have been properly prepared for the race. Had he dodged the pressure by telling himself the race wasn't that important?

Christie was also smiling when he crossed the line, but no one could doubt his mental preparation. He talked afterwards of his tunnel vision, the mental ability to ignore false starts, and concentrate on the running lane before him.

"I watched Christie's eyes in the semi-final and the final," says Dr Barry Cripps, a sports psychologist working with the British Olympic team. "Psychologically, he was a different person in the final. His eyes were fixed, staring towards the end of the track. As soon as he took

off from the blocks, he knew he was going to win."

Dr Cripps and Dr Hardy are part of a growing breed of psychologists who are interested in the mental health of sportsmen and how it affects their performances. It is now widely accepted that very little separates today's top athletes. Judged by past performance, any of the eight finalists in the men's 100 metres could have won. Where Christie differed from the others, according to the sports psychologists, was in his attitude. He was able to absorb the pressure and make it work to his advantage.

The ability to cope with stress has implications for us all. No one would turn down the opportunity to

'Before the competition I got them to think through what it feels like to win'

walk into a stressful work environment with Christie's resolve. But how much effect do sports psychologists actually have? Christie relies on his coach, Ron Roddan, rather than the couch, for his mental preparation. Mr Roddan has worked with him for 12 years, acting as his mentor, and offers much that a qualified sports psychologist provides.

The psychologist has become a feature of the sporting establishment in Britain only recently. This is the first year the British Olympic Association has included official psychologists in the team. There are two, Dr Brian Miller and Dr Richard Butler, working at the Barcelona headquarters and 12 others who have worked on a private basis with individual competitors prior to the games.

According to a spokeswoman from the British Olympic Association, Sally Gunnell spent some time

talking with Dr Miller before her victory in the 400 metres hurdles.

For many years, psychologists were dismissed as unqualified purveyors of phoney "psycho-babble": anyone could set themselves up as a guru. Recent scientific research has, however, given sports psychology some much-needed respectability. And today's sportsmen are becoming as competitive as they are prepared to try anything to give them the edge. In 1990, the British Association for Sports Sciences silenced some of the critics by setting up a register of 61 accredited sports psychologists (members have a second degree in psychology).

The psychology establishment, in turn, has been equally wary of the sporting world. At the end of this year, the British Psychological Society (members have a first degree in psychology) plans to set up a section for sport. The decision was taken after a prolonged discussion.

The main problem psychologists have is that their results are not always tangible, providing sceptics with plenty of ammunition. Leading figures such as Frank Dick, the national coaching director, and Brendan Foster refuse to have any time for them. "The only motivation I ever needed," Foster says, "was to sit in the changing room and say 'I'm going to win'."

But there is clearly a need for some sort of training other than the physical and technical. Why, for example, does one of the world's most gifted batsman, Graeme Hick, perform so well for Worcestershire, and fail time and again at Test match level? What went wrong with England's much-hailed rugby team when they "froze" against Scotland at Murrayfield in 1990 and lost the grand slam? And why did Jeremy Baines produce a double fault when he was serving for a place in the quarter final at Wimbleton? According to Dr Hardy, it is all to do with how humans react to anxiety.

"When you get anxious, two things happen," he says. "You have worrying thoughts, and you get physiologically aroused — butterflies in the stomach, sweaty hands,

tight muscles, adrenaline. There is an important inter-reaction between the two states. If you get the physiological effects when you are not worried, your performance will not be harmed. If, however, you get the physiological arousal and you are worried, the effects can be catastrophic."

Dr Hardy's conclusions challenge one of the fundamental laws of psychology. Robert Yerkes and J.D. Dodson stated in 1908 that individuals perform tasks best

when they are "moderately aroused". The "Yerkes-Dodson Law", Dr Hardy claims, failed to make the distinction between cognitive and physiological anxiety. "It is a gross simplification," he says. In his opinion, the individual can be very aroused physiologically and still perform well, provided that he is not worried. The most important factor for the individual is to be in control of the situation.

There is a caveat, however: When someone is physiologically aroused

for example, biochemical reactions in the body include the release of adrenaline, noradrenaline and cortisol. "There is strong evidence to suggest that cortisol can be damaging in large quantities," Dr Hardy says. "There is up to the minute, less substantiated evidence to suggest that you don't get such large quantities of cortisol if you perceive you are in control."

Dr Richard Dienstbier, an American psychologist, goes one

stage further. He claims that adren-

alin is positively healthy, supporting the common theory that athletes need that rush of adrenaline to perform well. It is a question of preventing the accompanying release of cortisol.

Dr Cripps has been working in recent months with the Olympic archery team, which won a bronze medal in Barcelona on Tuesday. A day earlier, Simon Terry, an 18-year-old, came third in the individual competition, the first time a Briton has won an Olympic medal for individual archery since 1908.

"Before the competition, I got them to imagine themselves with the medal around the neck, touching it, thinking through what it actually feels like to be a winner," Dr Cripps says. "For years and years in archery, we have been concentrating on technique, equipment and fitness. The last unknown is the mind. Archery is a mind game."

Surely the best example in sport of the mind working with the body is the archers' ability to slow down their heart rate through breathing exercises. It allows them to loose the arrows between beats, which can drop from 60 to 40 per minute. "They breathe in, hold their breath, and breath out slowly, saying to themselves, 'calm, calm, calm, easy, easy, easy,'" Dr Cripps says. "It is similar to eastern forms of meditation."

Another way in which psychologists cope with an athlete's anxiety is to develop behavioural consistency. The brain can, to a certain extent, be "programmed" to carry out motor functions. In layman's terms, the sportsmen do something "with their eyes shut", by mentally repeating the activity, or visualising it until it becomes second nature.

Carol Scheut is a sports psychologist who worked closely with Aston Villa football club last season. Four years ago at the Seoul Olympics, she helped Mark Rowlands to win an unexpected bronze medal in the 3000 metres steeplechase. "Visualisation" is central to her approach.

"It is a technique used by most top athletes, in fact it is used by people in all walks of life," she says. "I prefer to use the word 'imaging'. It is the ability to recreate mentally the perception of the performance you want to achieve. You aim to recreate the sights, sounds, smells of what you want to experience."

"In the steeplechase, for instance, the water-jump is quite different from the other hurdles. There is a specific technique required. The runner will 'image' how to move his arm, how to place his foot, and so on, perhaps recalling a previous, successful jump."

"Visualising" or "imaging", like other psychological techniques, is far from foolproof. No doubt, Colin Jackson spent the previous night jumping hurdles perfectly. A bit of wishful thinking, though, is healthy. For some people, dreams are all they are left with.



Focusing on victory: Linford Christie had the mental ability to concentrate solely on winning

Born, or borne, to be gay?

THE workers on one of the grander East Anglian estates, a group of Californian scientists and many homosexuals are all united in their belief that homosexuals are born, not made. Neuro-anatomists from the University of California medical school in Los Angeles and the nearby Salk Institute have recently produced evidence from post-mortem studies which, in their opinion, confirm the belief that homosexuality is the result of nature, not nurture.

The estate workers speak from personal experience. They have been able to watch generations of the local squire's family grow up and have concluded that the usually accepted figure of 4 to 5 per cent of men being exclusively homosexual, and another 10 per cent who have had an occasional homosexual contact, can be a gross underestimation. The locals suggest that the Book of Genesis is oversimplified, and that God created man, woman and the squire's family.

The anatomists, uninterested in gossip, claim to have found physical changes in the human brain. Doctors have never been certain if the deciding factor is homosexuality is hereditary, the consequence of the hormonal environment to which the squire's family.

The anatomists, uninterested in gossip,

which the baby is subjected while in the uterus, or the later environment, whether at home or at school.

To the chagrin of homosexual generations of medical students were taught that most males have the capability to develop homosexual tendencies and that these could be uncovered by having a detached, unaffectionate father and a dominant, emotionally demanding mother.

The discussion on the causes of homosexuality is a classic battle between the supporters of nature versus nurture. For the past 20 years the school of thought which favours nurture has been ridiculed by homosexuals who believed that they were born with this proclivity, but lacked the evidence to prove their point. The

nature lobby feels that Dr Simon Le Vay, a neuro-anatomist and a homosexual, has provided some of the evidence by demonstrating that the interstitial nucleus of the anterior hypothalamus, the part of the brain known to have a role in sexual arousal, was appreciably smaller in homosexual men.

Two other anatomists, Dr Laura Allen and Dr Roger Gorski, have now shown that another cluster of nerves, one which connects the right and left-hand sides of the brain, is larger in homosexual men than in heterosexuals. The scientists suggest that the immature brain is essentially female and needs a specific environment in utero to become male.

Other scientists have criticised the study, not because Dr Le Vay is homosexual, but because the anatomists have used the brains of homosexuals who have died of AIDS, and AIDS is known to affect 90 per cent of brains with, on average, a 40 per cent loss of neurones in the frontal cortex before death. They imply that to draw firm conclusions from a disease-ravaged brain would be akin to judging how a telephone network operates by studying one in a heavily bombarded town.

What's up, doc?

FOOD has been in the news this week. One well-publicised report said that some people become so obsessed with the modern fad of eating carrots that they turn themselves yellow as a result of the amount of beta carotene in their diet. It is even said that some suffer psychological withdrawal symptoms if denied this food.

The practice is not one to be recommended, but it is doubtful if the carrot eaters are doing themselves any lasting harm, although they may develop yellow palms to their hands and soles to their feet as well as a slightly tanned-looking face. Taken in reasonable doses, beta carotene is to be recommended; it is like vitamins C and E, is thought to be cardio-protective and to reduce the incidence of some malignant diseases.

News, too, of garlic. Dr John Reddick, an expert on hyperlipidaemia, the condition in which people have high blood fat and fat diseases which stem from this, reports that garlic really does lower the blood fat, both cholesterol and triglycerides. The bad news is that large doses are needed — seven to 28 cloves a day.



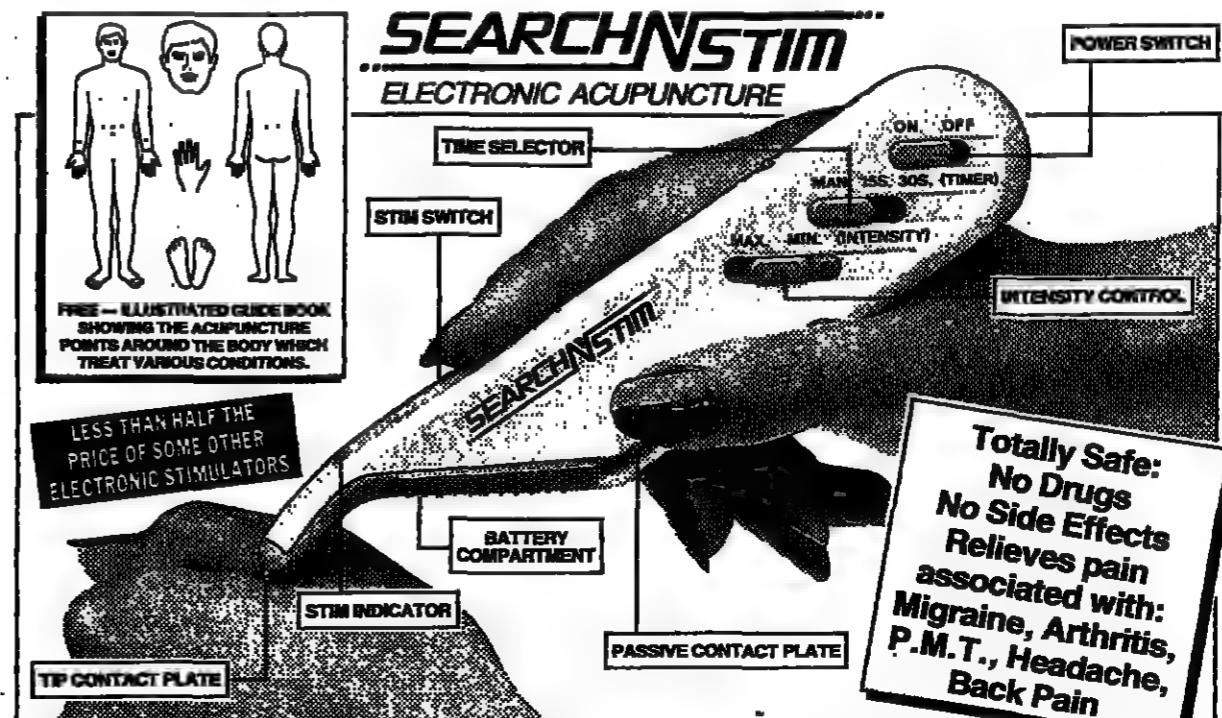
critical of the report. Their view, encouraged by a recent letter in *The Lancet* which showed that in many countries there was no long-term relationship between low cholesterol levels and suicide, could almost be summed up as "Interesting, but so what".

They admit that the finding deserves investigation, but say that the increase in suicide was minimal and that death from heart attacks in patients with a high blood cholesterol level is very common. They say that the report highlights a possible risk factor in the cost

benefit analysis of cholesterol lowering, but ignores the much greater advantages enjoyed by patients who reduce their cholesterol. They also cast doubt on the methodology of the study which, they say, does not show causality or make allowances for all the factors that might influence the result.

The critics suggest that it is as if people should be discouraged from enjoying the benefits of a high-fish diet by a report which dwells on the occasional cases of a diner who choked on a fish bone.

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After K day...

Disaster may be delayed

EARLY signs are that August sales might not be the disaster some had forecast and could buck the recessionary trend. The Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 7,500 dealers, believes that new K registration car sales could be 10 per cent up on last August's total of 367,000.

Though accurate figures will not be available until the middle of the month, the federation's Geoff Dossiter says: "It seems that sales in the South and South-East are not so good, but in the Midlands and the North, sales so far are up on last August."

"Sales for the month could be up by 10 per cent on last year. If we could achieve that 10 per cent improvement, we would be on target for the 400,000 figure for the month that we have been forecasting. I certainly do not think we will be far off 400,000."

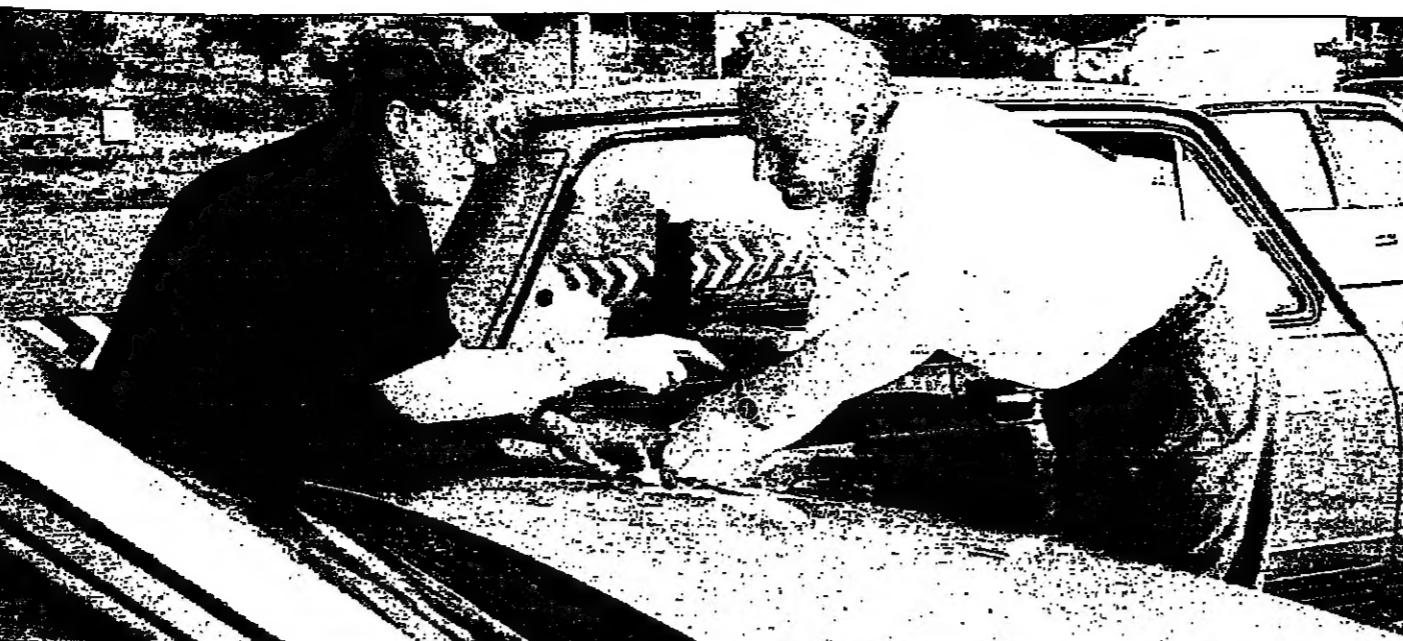
Sarah Perris of Ford was more cautious, saying that it was too early yet to tell what the month might bring. She said, however, that Ford analysts have refined in earlier August figures of 400,000 sales and believe that 370,000 new cars will change hands in August.

One sector of the market that is doing well is that of the ultra-cheap new cars. Yugo, which sells the £2,499 Tempo, the cheapest car on sale in the UK, has a waiting list for the car. Many buyers on the list are grandparents wanting to buy grandchildren a surprise gift. Lada, too, is benefiting as motorists realise that for the price of a four-year-old used saloon they can buy something brand new.

At Ciro's, Matthew Sharp said sales were buoyant and that the company certainly expected to better results of last August.

Commenting on the year so far, the federation's chief economist Neil Marshall said: "These have been very tough times for dealers and they have not been making huge amounts of money. But I am optimistic. I think we are on an upward trend. What concerns me is what happens next month because some sales could be pulled forward, leaving a void for the rest of the year."

The usual effect of August registrations is virtually to cancel all sales in June and July and leave an arid spell until the end of the year.



Point of disagreement: Kerry Gill (right) discusses the damage to an Italian's Autobianchi after he had rammed it near Florence

Alfa-Romeo passes the 4,000-mile test

An elderly version of the great car is driven to Italy by Kerry Gill

south on the M2 to the coast I went. The only real misgivings I had with the Alfa concerned the rear brakes.

Even so, the engine ran perfectly and a check on the oil level before I boarded the P&O ferry to Calais showed that none had been used in 500 miles. The ferry trip was

excellent and the journey through France the next day was uneventful. Oil pressure and temperature stayed normal and the car's pulling power seemed as good as new. Using mainly routes nationales

and back roads in order to see

France rather than the eternal strip of motorway tarmac, the second day's driving amounted to more than ten hours, stops included.

Hence it was with a little trepidation that I set off for Dover, having armed myself with the AA's five-star service insurance pack and a two-litre can of oil in the boot. Down the A1, on to the M11 and

then the M20 to the Port of Dover. The first was three days before departure. The radiator core and oil and filter had to be replaced before I started the Alfa and backed off the garage ramp. There was a thud as a chunk of rubber flew out from beneath and walloped the mechanic. It was part of a propshaft "doughnut". Although the car drove perfectly well, I was advised to replace the doughnut.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report August 7 1992

Court of Appeal

Power to order sale at undervalue

Palk v Mortgage Services Funding plc

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Sir Michael Kerr (Judgment July 31)

The court had an unfettered discretion to enable it to order a sale of mortgaged property against the wishes of the lender, despite the fact that the mortgage would not thereby be redeemed, where it would be unfair to the borrower to postpone a sale.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the borrower, Margaret Palk, from the dismissal by Judge Lovegrove on November 12, 1991 at Eastbourne County Court, of her and her husband's application under section 91(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925 to order for sale of property mortgaged by them to the lender, Mortgage Services Funding plc.

Mr Anthony Rimmer for the borrowers, Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Mr Michael Kerr for the lenders:

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that Anthony Palk was a victim of the recession. In January 1990 he had obtained an advance of £300,000 from Mortgage Services Funding. The loan had been secured by a mortgage over the house owned by him and his wife Margaret in Cross in Hand, Heathfield, East Sussex.

Mr Palk had met the first three instalments but had been unable to make any more payments. His business had started to founder and his company had gone into insolvent liquidation.

In July 1990 Mr Palk had realised that he could not cope with the mounting arrears under the mortgage and his other debts. Ultimately in March 1991 he had negotiated a sale for £283,000. The amount required to redeem the mortgage, including the arrears, was £358,587.

He had wished to proceed with the sale despite the shortfall because that would at least have stopped interest accruing on most of the debt. Mortgage Services had declined to agree the sale. So on June 19, 1991 Mr and Mrs Palk had applied to Eastbourne County Court for an order that the house should be sold.

Meanwhile, Mortgage Services had obtained an order for possession. The order had been suspended pending the outcome of Mr and Mrs Palk's application and remained suspended pending the appeal.

Although Mortgage Services was seeking possession, its object was not currently to sell the house. It did not intend to put the house on the market but believed the best course was to let the property on a short-term lease and to sell when

the market improved. That course of action did not commend itself to the Palks.

For a postponement of sale to be worthwhile, housing prices would have to rise faster than the rate of interest payable under the mortgage after deducting the amount of the rent obtainable from the proposed letting.

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Moreover, the likely rental would not even match the interest the Palks would save if the house were sold and they were credited with the net proceeds of sale.

In this respect, which his Lordship would refer to as "the income shortfall", there would be a significant shortfall. The Palks' own prospect of the housing market recovering at a rate fast enough to overtake the income shortfall or, still less, the rate at which their overall debt was increasing steadily month by month.

The jurisdiction invoked by Mrs Palk was statutory. Section 91 of the 1925 Act provided: "(2) in any action whether for foreclosure or for redemption, or for sale, or for the raising and payment in any manner of mortgage money, the court, on the request of the mortgagor or of any person interested either in the mortgage money or in the right of redemption, and notwithstanding that—(a) any other person claims that—

the mortgagor or any person so interested does not appear in the action; and without allowing any time for redemption or for payment of any mortgage money, may direct a sale of the mortgaged property, on such terms as it thinks fit, including the deposit in court of a reasonable sum fixed by the court to meet the expenses of sale and to secure performance of the terms."

As might be expected, if a mortgagee sought to foreclose, the court would only direct a sale contrary to his wishes if repayment of his debt was fully secured. That could be achieved by fixing a suitable reserve price for a sale, or by requiring the mortgagor to make a payment into court.

His Lordship turned, therefore, to the question of discretion. As to that, the features which struck him most forcibly were, first, the unfairness of Mrs Palk being compelled to participate in and undermine the risk Mortgage Services wished to take.

If Mortgage Services wished to chance its arm and run the risk in waiting to see what happened to house prices, it should be free to do so. In common fairness, however, it ought not to be able to saddle Mrs Palk with that risk and a rising debt against her wishes.

It should back its own judgment. It should not be able to have recourse against Mrs Palk for an increased sum, being the adverse financial consequences of a revaluation scheme Mrs Palk opposed on reasonable grounds. She should not be at risk of being worse off than she was currently. She ought not to be made liable for the income shortfall.

She ought to be credited with the current value of the property. Subsequent fluctuations in value, for better or for worse, would then become a matter of concern only to Mortgage Services.

The second notable feature of the case was that the primary objective of the case could be achieved without Mrs Palk being compelled to become an unwilling risk-taker. If Mortgage Services took over the property at current market value, it could obtain for itself the benefit of any improvement in house prices. That result would strike a fair balance between the parties.

Section 91(2) gave the court a discretion in wide terms. The discretion was unqualified. It could be exercised at any time. Self-evidently, in exercising that power, the court would have due regard to the interests of all concerned.

His Lordship's view of the case was one in which a sale should be directed even though there would be a deficiency. It was just and equitable to order a sale because otherwise unfairness and injustice would follow.

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Four factors combined to produce that result. First, there was a substantial income shortfall. Second, the only prospect of recoupment of the shortfall lay in the hope that there would be a substantial rise in house prices generally.

Following on from that, on the scanty evidence before the court the likelihood of Mrs Palk suffering increased loss if the company's plan proceeded was so high as to make the plan oppressive to her.

Fourth, directing a sale would not preclude the mortgagee from having the opportunity to wait and see what happened to house prices.

The mortgagee could buy the property.

In the absence of a dramatic surge in house prices in the near future Mortgage Services pre-arranged course would be to wait and see what happened to house prices.

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Valedictory to Lord Donaldson of Lynching, Master of the Rolls

Before Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor; Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice; Sir Stephen Bannister, President of the Family Division; Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor; Lord Justice Watkins, Deputy Chief Justice and Sir Louis Justice of Appeal and High Court Judges

in the Civil Appeals Office to assist in case management and presentation, the introduction of skeleton arguments to define issues, the weekly

dismissal list to accelerate delayed appeals and dispose of them the handing down of judgments to save court time and the annual

reviews of the court's performance.

In addition he had found time to serve as Treasurer of his Inn and as

the Inn's President. As Master of the Rolls he had supported and conscientiously discharged his duties to the Law Society.

He had been a uniquely full and distinguished career of public service.

paid to Lord Donaldson's outstanding qualities on the Bench, his concise and courteous approach, his clarity of expression, his utterly open and unporous approach, and his pioneering procedural reforms.

The solicitors of England wished to offer him profound thanks for all his outstanding work as the guardian of their profession: always approachable, always firm and always fair.

To all his tasks in relation to his office he had given generously of his time. He had been an ever open door, a ready source of sound advice and a true friend and guide to the profession.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS thanked the Lord Chancellor for sending and all those who had spoken for their

memories.

The statutory connection of the Master of the Rolls with the solicitors' profession was very important. It enabled him to act as linkman between all three branches of the profession, an unique example of fusion. As a result he had a very real appreciation of their problems and aspirations and hoped he had helped in solving some of the problems and in fulfilling their aspirations.

Turning to judicial reform, his Lordship was convinced that consideration should be given to whether English judges might not benefit from professional assistance partly, but not wholly on the American model.

While it was for the Government and not the judiciary to decide what level of public expenditure should be allocated to the administration of justice, it was his duty to inform and warn both the government and the public if the level of resources was such that the standard of service which the court could offer was likely to decline.

Last autumn he had given a warning that delays would increase unless there were either improved filter systems designed to exclude hopeless appeals or an increase in the judicial establishment or both.

He would further warn that his successor might have to allocate more Lords Justices to the work of the Criminal Division, whose customers were like those of the Civil Division, on lengthening waiting lists, but who, unlike those of the Civil Division, had to wait in prison. He regretted not being able to provide his successor with a better inheritance.

Impressive skill and flair of the Master of the Rolls

Palk v Mortgage Services Funding plc

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Sir Michael Kerr (Judgment July 31)

The court had an unfettered discretion to enable it to order a sale of mortgaged property against the wishes of the lender, despite the fact that the mortgage would not thereby be redeemed, where it would be unfair to the borrower to postpone a sale.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the borrower, Margaret Palk, from the dismissal by Judge Lovegrove on November 12, 1991 at Eastbourne County Court, of her and her husband's application under section 91(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925 to order for sale of property mortgaged by them to the lender, Mortgage Services Funding plc.

Mr Anthony Rimmer for the borrowers, Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Mr Michael Kerr for the lenders:

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that Anthony Palk was a victim of the recession. In January 1990 he had obtained an advance of £300,000 from Mortgage Services Funding. The loan had been secured by a mortgage over the house owned by him and his wife Margaret in Cross in Hand, Heathfield, East Sussex.

Mr Palk had met the first three instalments but had been unable to make any more payments. His business had started to founder and his company had gone into insolvent liquidation.

In July 1990 Mr Palk had realised that he could not cope with the mounting arrears under the mortgage and his other debts. Ultimately in March 1991 he had negotiated a sale for £283,000. The amount required to redeem the mortgage, including the arrears, was £358,587.

He had wished to proceed with the sale despite the shortfall because that would at least have stopped interest accruing on most of the debt. Mortgage Services had declined to agree the sale. So on June 19, 1991 Mr and Mrs Palk had applied to Eastbourne County Court for an order that the house should be sold.

Meanwhile, Mortgage Services had obtained an order for possession. The order had been suspended pending the outcome of Mr and Mrs Palk's application and remained suspended pending the appeal.

Although Mortgage Services was seeking possession, its object was not currently to sell the house. It did not intend to put the house on the market but believed the best course was to let the property on a short-term lease and to sell when

the market improved. That course of action did not commend itself to the Palks.

For a postponement of sale to be worthwhile, housing prices would have to rise faster than the rate of interest payable under the mortgage after deducting the amount of the rent obtainable from the proposed letting.

The sum due under the mortgage was increasing by about £43,000 a year. Lettings were unlikely to yield more than £13,000 or £14,000 a year. So the overall debt would continue to grow by a sum approaching £30,000 each year.

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BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (17026) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (82172692)
 8.25 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. Athletics: 8.30 men's 4x100m, first round; 9.00 women's 4x100m, first round; 9.30 men's 4x400m, first round (67370397)
 10.00 News and weather (6026303) followed by Olympic Grandstand and Cricket. From Barcelona, the qualifying round of the men's javelin and six finals in the canoeing flat water sprint events. At the Oval, the opening session of the second day's play in the fifth Test between England and Pakistan. The commentators are Richie Benaud, Tony Lewis, Jack Bannister, Geoff Boycott, Ray Illingworth and Asif Iqbal. Include News, regional news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (69167465); 12.55 Regional News and weather (67373842)
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (30804)
 1.30 Ceefax (s) (43407661) 1.50 Eldorado (r). (Ceefax) (s) (61347939)
 2.20 Olympic Grandstand and Cricket. From Barcelona, the final of the women's tennis singles, due to have started at 1.00, the bronze medal play-off in the women's hockey, plus coverage of the individual show jumping qualifying rounds and the synchronised swimming duet final. From the Oval, further coverage of the second day's play in the fifth Test between England and Pakistan (68893261)
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (1941)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (674) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster (7.00)
 7.30 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. Athletics: 7.30 women's 4x400m, first round; 8.00 men's 3,000m steeplechase final; 8.30 women's 10,000m final; Hockey: the final of the women's tournament which started at 6.30 (81575663)
 9.15 Main News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (304842)
 9.45 Virtual Murder: A Bone to Pick.
 CHOICE: How's this for an opening? A nutter dressed as Father Christmas turns up at a police station and employs a sadistic of human bones on the front desk. As a bonus he is played by Tony Robinson of *Blackadder*. The guest stars feature strongly tonight, the growing number of elderly people who have lost the protection, traditional in their culture, of the extended family. Instead of spending their declining years being cared for by their children, they often find themselves alone. There leads inevitably to bitterness. One Asian man says: "My kids don't like me, so how can I like them?" The root of the difficulty is often economic. The houses most Asian can afford are not big enough to take large families and children who might be expected to look after their parents are out at work. It also seems that many elderly Asians are not aware of the social benefits available to them (s) (5804)
 8.30 Gardeners' World presented by Geoff Hamilton (4939)



Whiskey galore: Burt Reynolds baits a killer (12.15am)

12.15am Film: White Lightning (1973) starring Burt Reynolds, Jennifer Billingsley and Ned Beatty. Tough action thriller about an imprisoned bootlegger who agrees to co-operate with the authorities after he learns that his brother has been killed by a corrupt Arkansas sheriff. Directed by Joseph Sargent (510576)
 1.55 Weather (1420250)

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus handset. VideoPlus can be used with most VCRs. Tap in the VideoPlus handset for the first few digits of the code. Tap off for the last few digits on 0893 12104. Calls charged at 48p per minute peak, 3p off-peak or write to VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8LA. VideoPlus™, VideoCode™ and VideoPlus are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd

SKY NEWS

SKY ONE
 • Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
 6.00am Shifty (39216) 6.20am Papapop (5811231) 7.00 The 21st Century (1989) 7.30 Japan's 100 Greatest Books (35649) 10.00 Let's Make a Deal (50184) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (13399) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (13399) 12.00 530 Club (121001) 1.00pm E! Entertainment (121001) 1.30pm Entertainment Weekly (127468) 1.30pm The World's Greatest Sports Scores (17587) 1.30pm The Brady Bunch (107262); 3.45 The Art! Show (19620) 5.00 Fact of Life (19339) 5.30 Different Strokes (Ms 2) 1.45pm The 21st Century (1989) 2.00pm The Street (8567) 2.00 Ah! (3921) 2.30 Canada Camera (4521) 2.30 The Rich: The Tragedy (71465) 9.00 WWW Superstars of Wrestling (64129) 10.00 Studs (69520) 10.30 Police Story (85129) 11.30 The Double Life of Harry Phelps (53778) 12.00 Showtime (304657) 1.55

SKY MOVIES+

• Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
 6.00am Showtime (304657)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

• Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites
 6.15am Under Two Flags (1936, b/w) A Foreign Legion drama (5771326); 6.20 Last of the Condors (3523858); 6.25 The Last of the Mohicans (19571397); 6.30 Tarzan and the Lost World (1953); 6.45 The Last of the Mohicans (1991); Tarzan and the Golden Heart (1923)

6.45 Where's Willy? (1943); 6.50 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 6.55 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 7.00 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 7.15 Renegades (1981); 7.30 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 7.45 Renegades (1981); 7.50 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 7.55 Renegades (1981); 8.00 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 8.15 Renegades (1981); 8.30 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 8.45 Renegades (1981); 8.55 Renegades (1981); 8.55 Renegades (1981); 9.00 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 9.15 Renegades (1981); 9.30 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 9.45 Renegades (1981); 9.55 Renegades (1981); 10.00 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 10.15 Renegades (1981); 10.30 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 10.45 Renegades (1981); 10.55 Renegades (1981); 11.00 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 11.15 Renegades (1981); 11.30 Renegades (1981); 11.45 Renegades (1981); 11.55 Renegades (1981); 12.00 The Man with the Deadly Lure (1982); 12.15 Renegades (1981); 12.30 Renegades (1981); 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